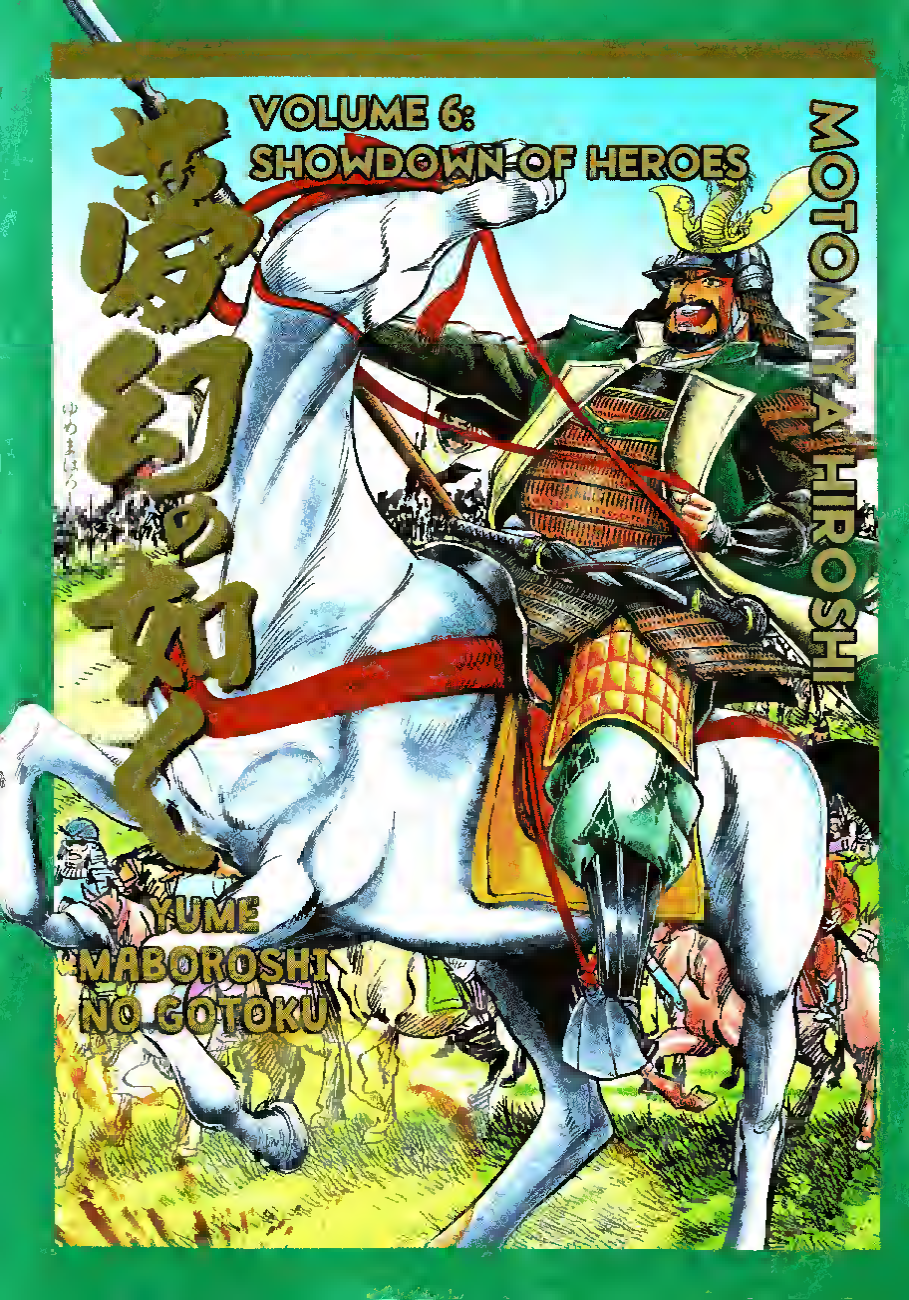
VOLUME 6:
SHOWDOWN OF HEROES
MOTOMIYA HIROSHI
夢幻の如く
ゆめまぼろし
YUME
MABOROSHI
NO GOTOKU

Yume Maboroshi no Gotoku
Motomiya Hiroshi
Volume 6: Showdown of Heroes

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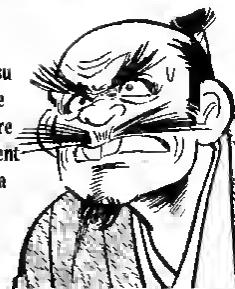
The Story So Far

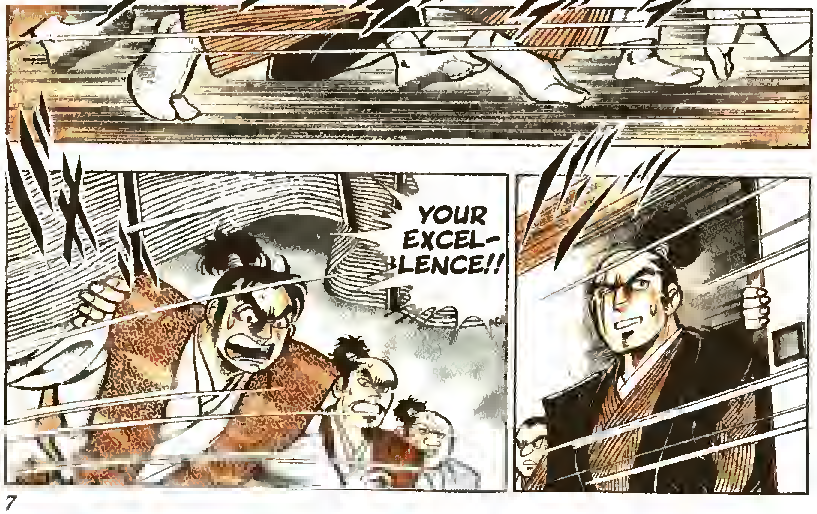
After the Incident of Honno Temple, Oda Nobunaga survived and leaving Ieyasu and Hideyoshi to rule the nation, he prepared to conquer the world However, Ieyasu betrayed him, and Nobunaga and Hideyoshi had to leave Japan before they were ready What's more, the ships were assailed by a storm, and the men all drifted to the continent separately, and Hideyoshi searched for the lost Nobunaga Meanwhile, Ranmaru was sent to a different world where Hideyoshi ruled Japan And Hideyoshi gave the order to kill Ranmaru!!



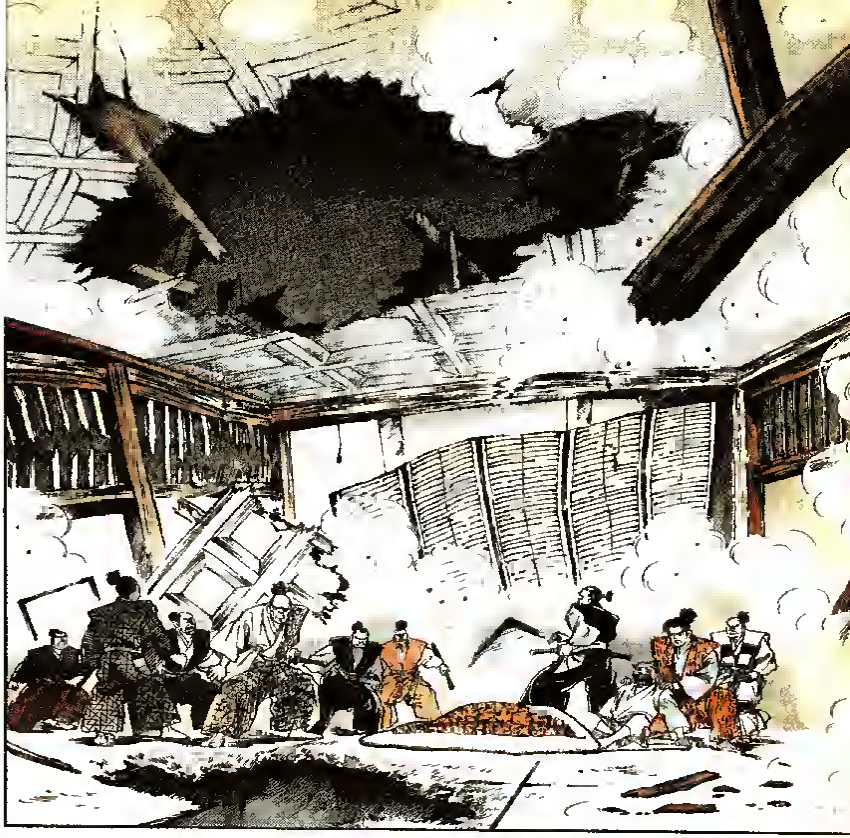
Chapter 37: The Devil King Transcends Space and Time

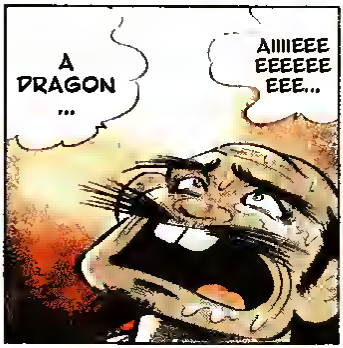
MON-
KEEEEEY
YYYYYYY
YYYYY!!

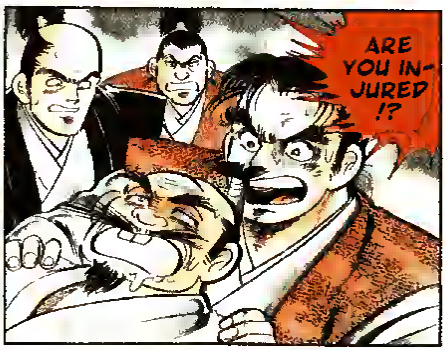
W-
FORGET NOT THAT I CAN RETURN FROM HELL TO CLAIM YOUR LIFE WHENEVER I CHOOSE!
YOU'VE GOT SOME STONES TO TRY AND SLAUGHTER MY KIN!
WAAA AAAA AAAA UGH!!
HAAH HAHAHA HAAAAAA AAAAH!!
GWAAH HAHAHA HAHA!

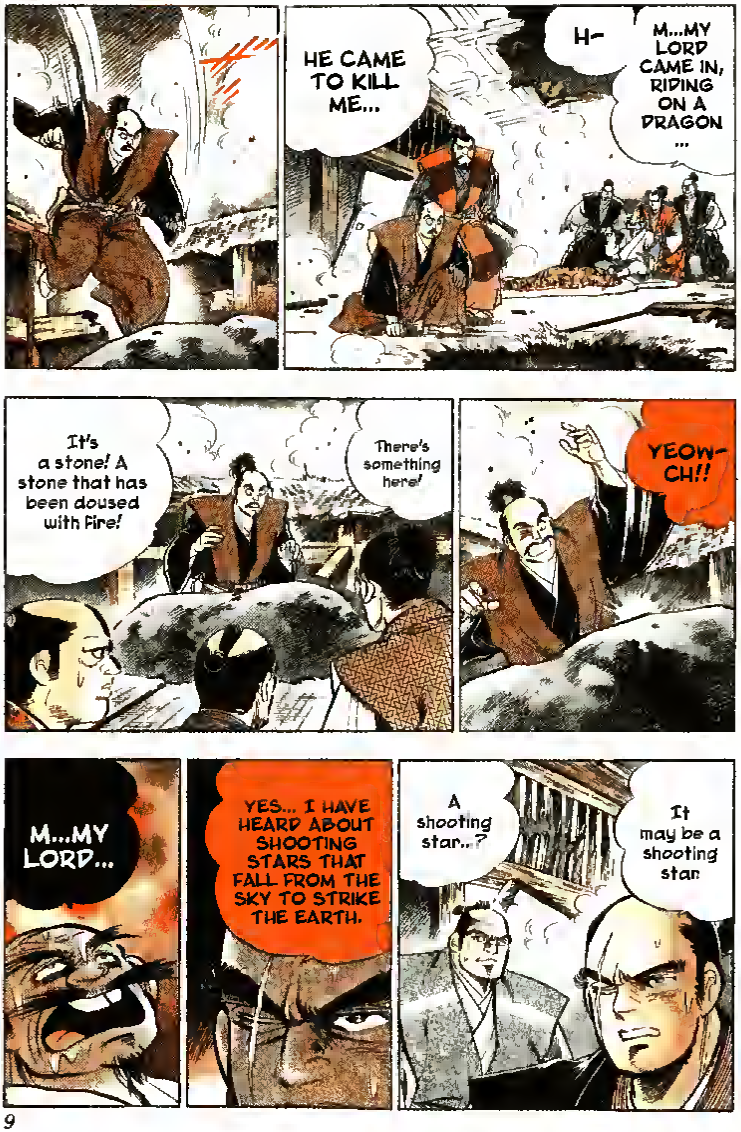

YOUR EXCEL-
LENCE!!

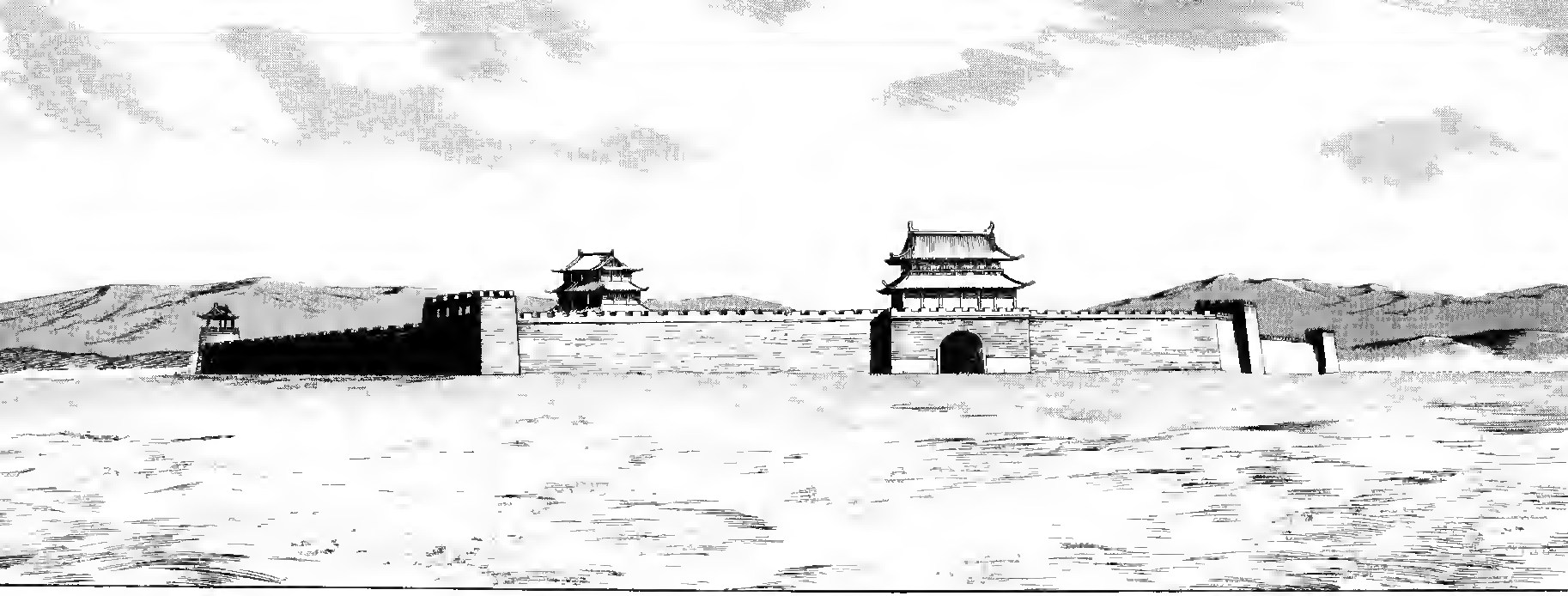
HELP ME!
PLEASE HELP ME!




A DRAGON ...
AIIIIEEE EEEEEE EEE...


ARE YOU IN-JURED !?


HE CAME TO KILL ME...
H-
M...MY LORD CAME IN, RIDING ON A DRAGON ...
It's a stone! A stone that has been doused with fire!
There's something here!
YEOW-CH!!
M...MY LORD...
YES... I HAVE HEARD ABOUT SHOOTING STARS THAT FALL FROM THE SKY TO STRIKE THE EARTH.
A shooting star..?
It may be a shooting star.

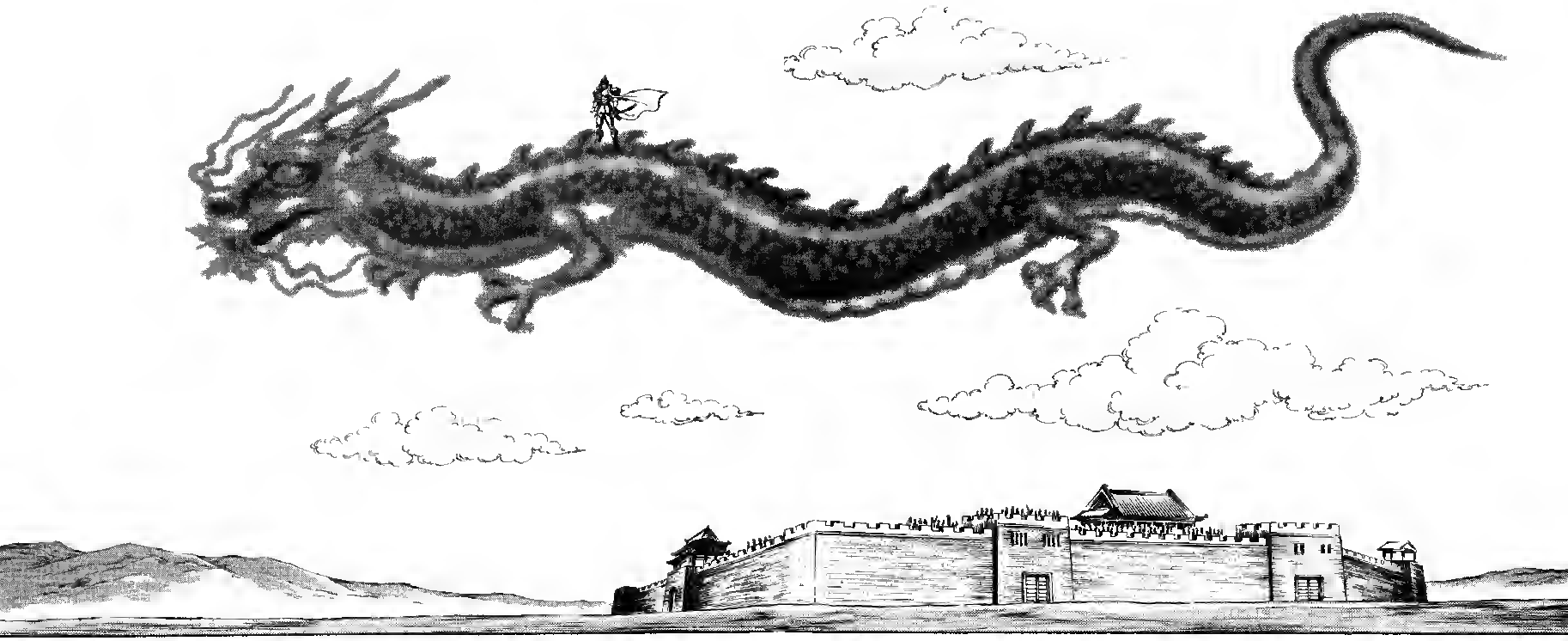


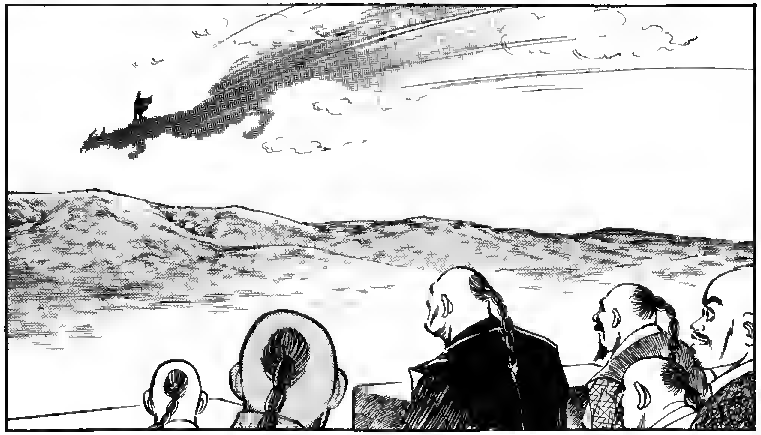
So, they really are Japanese?

These look just like the Samurai that were around these parts when we were attacked by both Japan and the Yuan.
No doubt about it. I heard about 'em from my grandFather, who heard from his grand-father before him...

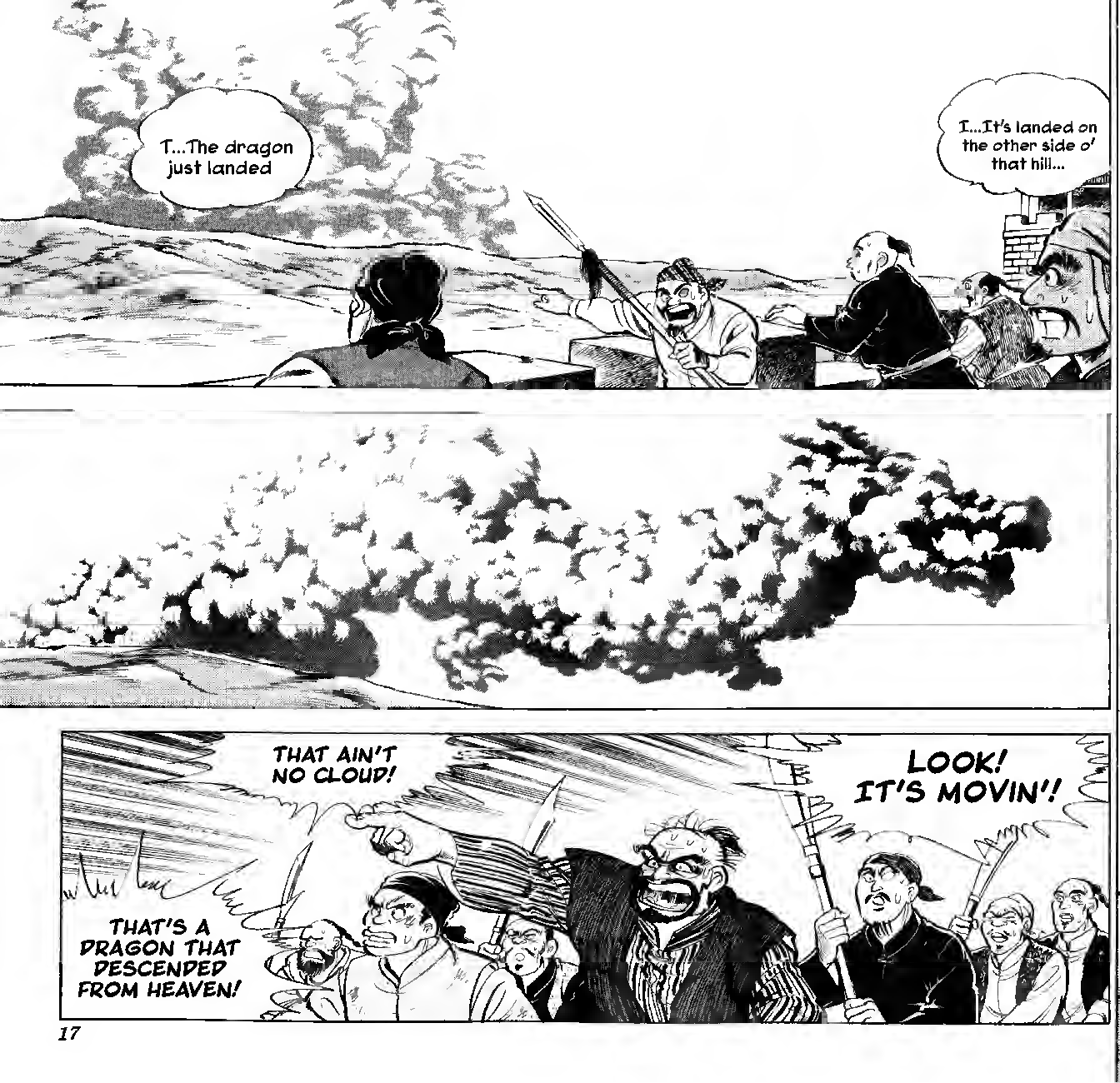
WHAT KIND OF IDIOT DO YA THINK WOULD SURRENDER HIS CASTLE WHEN HE'S TOLD?
SHUT UP, YA DAMNED SPY!
I'll say it one last time. Surrender your castle to Lord Oda Nobunaga.
We are strong indeed...
HMM ...?
But we're strong...
GWAAHHAHAHA!

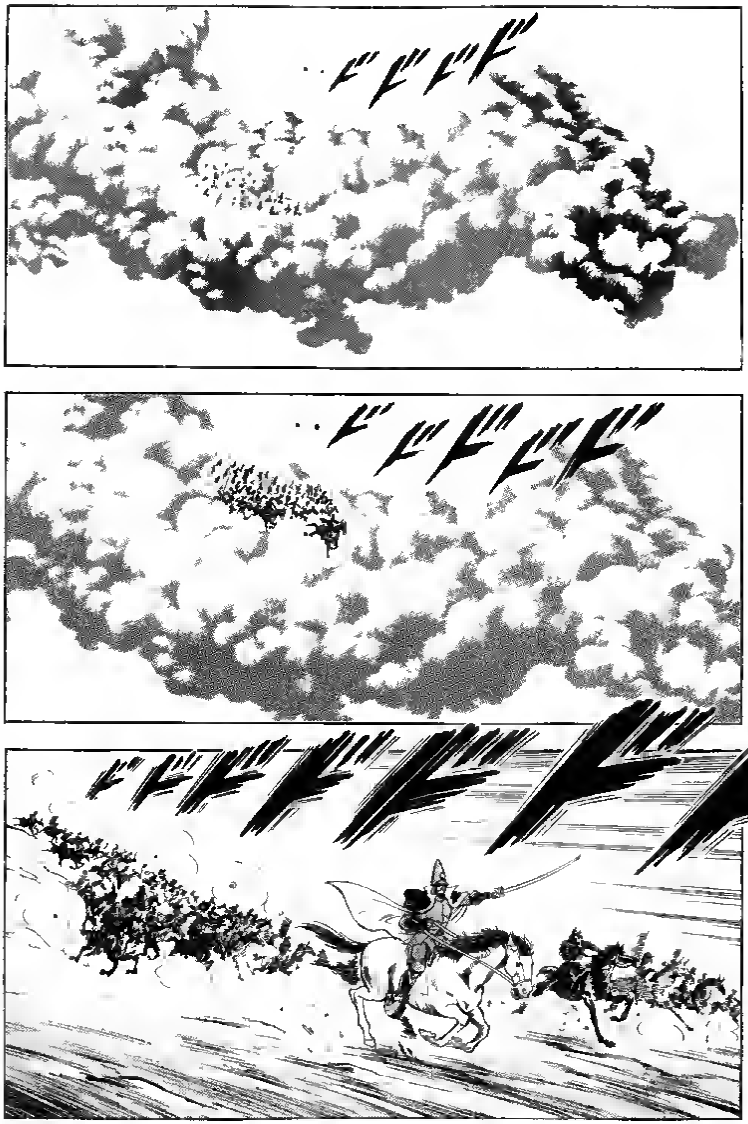
FINE BY ME!
KILL THIS BRAT!
If you will not surrender this castle, then kill me, Mori Nagayoshi.
You will witness the strength of our army.
SHUT YER GODDAMN MOUTH!
JAPAN'S A MINISCULE ISLAND! THERE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE STRONG PEOPLE FROM THAT PUNY ISLAND!
A DRAGON! THERE'S A DRAGON FLYING OVERHEAD!
WAAAAAAAAAAAAA-AUGH! OUTSIDE! LOOK OUTSIDE!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?





TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, YOU IDIOTS! THAT'S JUST A CLOUD! THAT AIN'T NO DRAGON!
IT'S A DRAGON!
DRAGON!


T...The dragon just landed
I...It's landed on the other side o' that hill...
THAT AIN'T NO CLOUD!
LOOK! IT'S MOVIN'!
THAT'S A DRAGON THAT DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN!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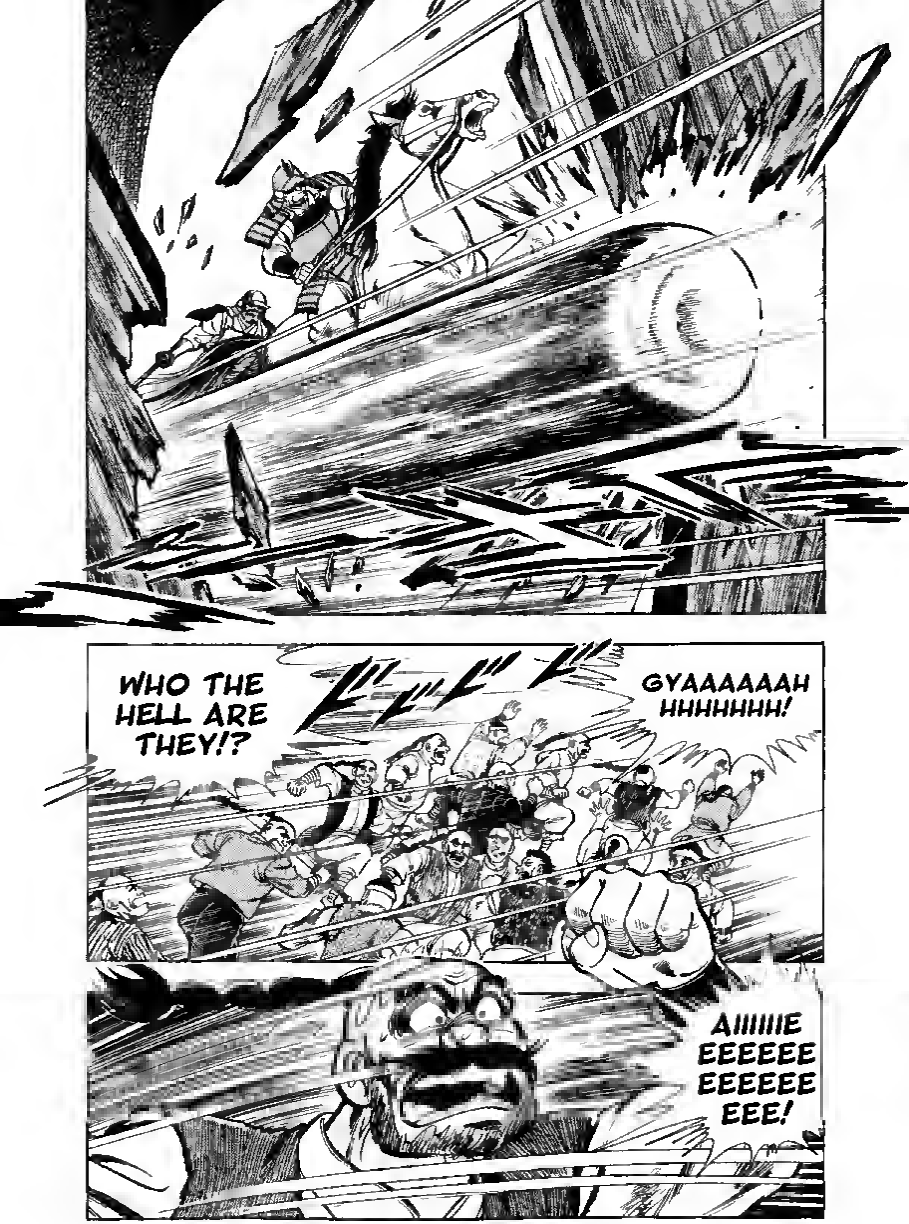
ド ド ド ド ド
ド ド ド ド ド

THAT'S OUR ENEMY!!
SOME DRAGON THAT IS! THEY'RE JUST SOLDIERS!

GWAAH HAHA HAH!
GO GET 'EM!!

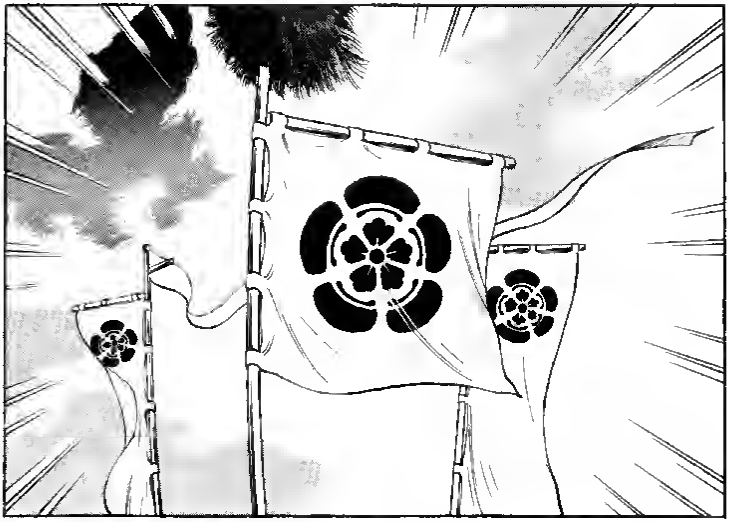
YEEAAAAHHHHHH!


WHO THE HELL ARE THEY!?
GYAAAAAAH HHHHHHH!
AIIIIIIE EEEEEE EEEEEE EEE!

ドドドドド
NAGAYOSHI! WHERE IS MORI NAGA-YOSHI?
DO NOT KILL THEM! THEY ARE ALL TO BECOME MY SOLDIERS!

GWAAH HAHA HAHA!
THOSE BASTARDS HAVE FLED WITHOUT CLAIMING MY HEAD!
I AM RIGHT HERE!!
RAISE OUR STANDARD IN THIS FORTRESS!
YES, MY LORD!
KO-ROKU !!

GWAAH HAHA HAHA!
THIS IS THE FIRST STEP TO MY WORLD CONQUEST!
YEEEAAAAA AAAAAAAAAA HHHHHHHH!!



I'M BACK...

I'm back...
I'm back to the dream world where my Lord is...

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

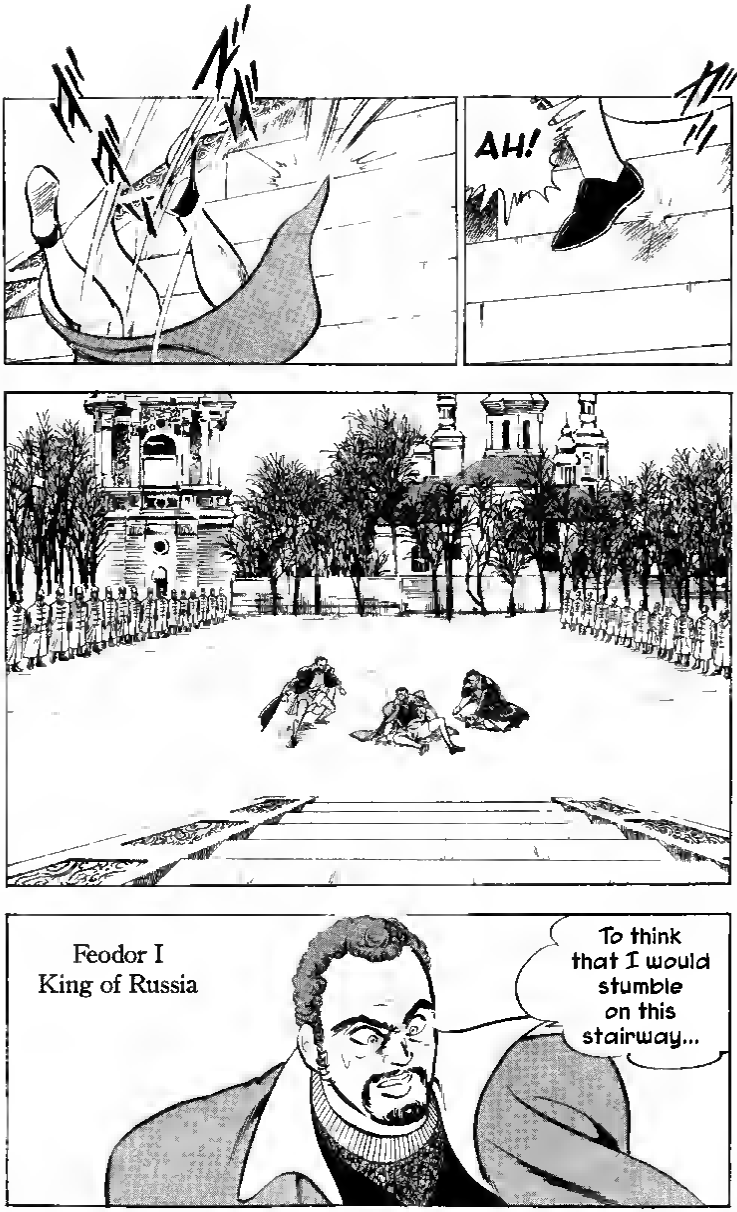
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

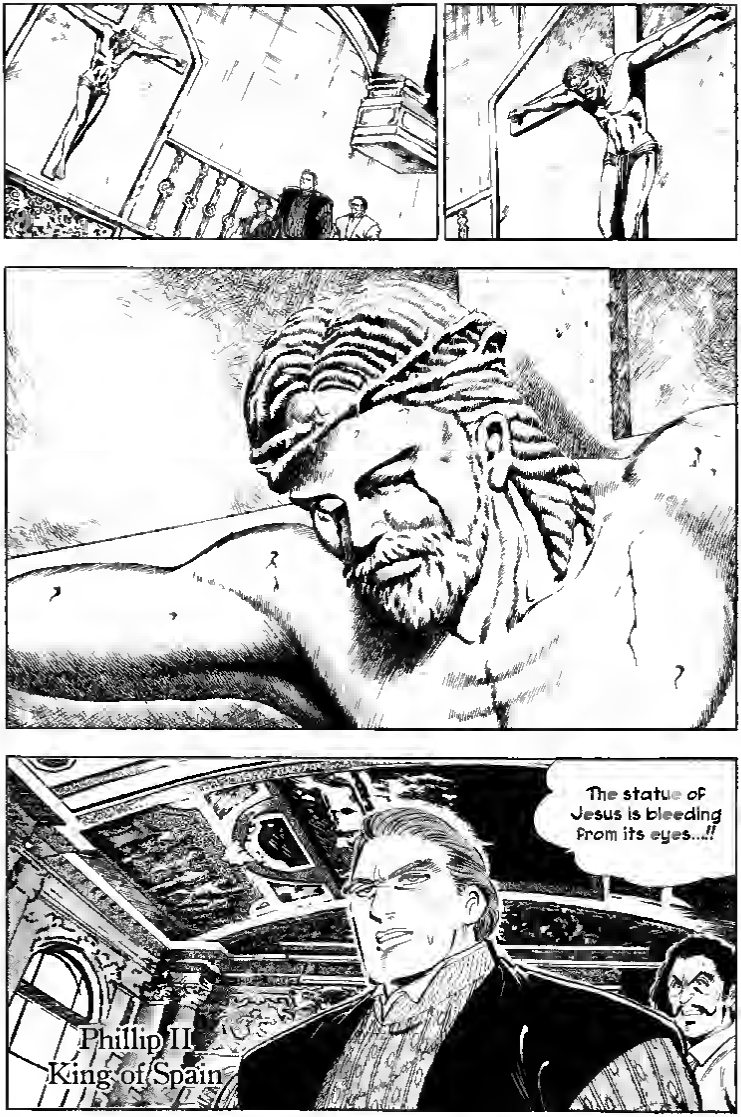
QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 37

Chapter 38: The First Standard

Chapter 38: The First Standard


AH!
Feodor I
King of Russia
To think that I would stumble on this stairway...

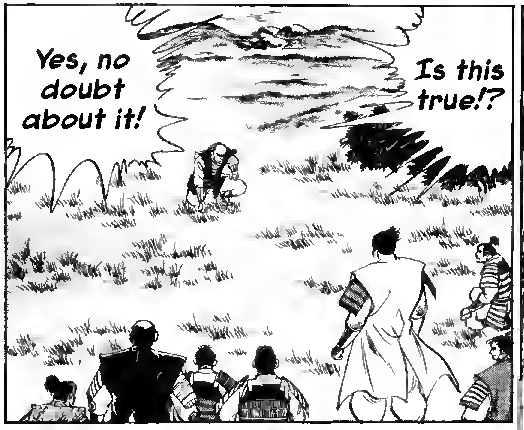

The statue of Jesus is bleeding from its eyes...!!
Phillip II
King of Spain

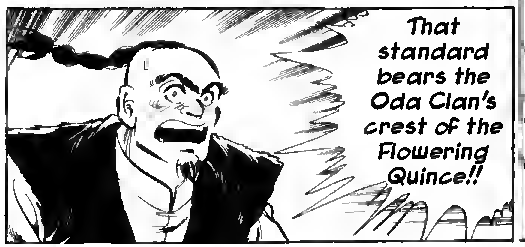
Elizabeth I
Queen of
England
Find him
at once!
There is
someone
who means
to kill me!!

Of all the days...
Why can't I get it up today!?
Emperor
Shenzong Wanli
Emperor of Ming

He is certainly not a man that I, Kuroda Kanbei, could ever fathom.
What a man he is. Gahhaha ...

We must continue to defend it, even to the very gates of Hell!!
Now the cargo we have defended since the storm at sea can be put to use!


Yes, no doubt about it!
Is this true!?

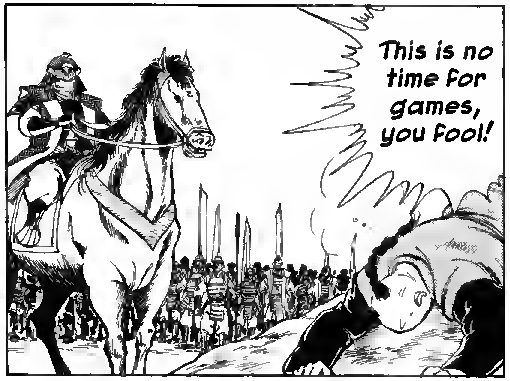

That standard bears the Oda Clan's crest of the Flowering Quince!!

What !?

Father's standard has been raised?
What?
There is no doubt about it.

at a Waerka Fortress three ri west of here!
The Oda Clan's standard has most certainly been raised
Is that true!?
It's Lord Oda...
It's the Lord...
So he's returned to this world after all!! Damn it all!
We're moving out!

We have no idea of the enemy's strength or numbers...
Hehhehe... These type of wars are the most entertaining...

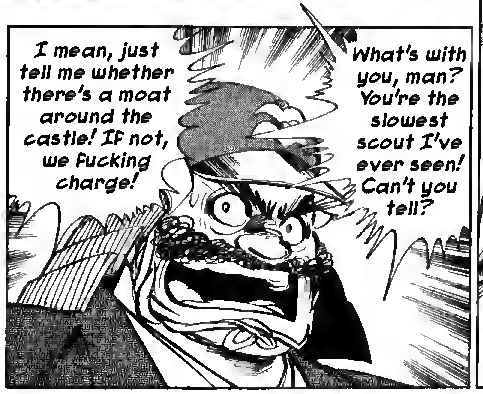

This is no time for games, you fool!

What the hell...?

The Lord is there...
T...

Huh?

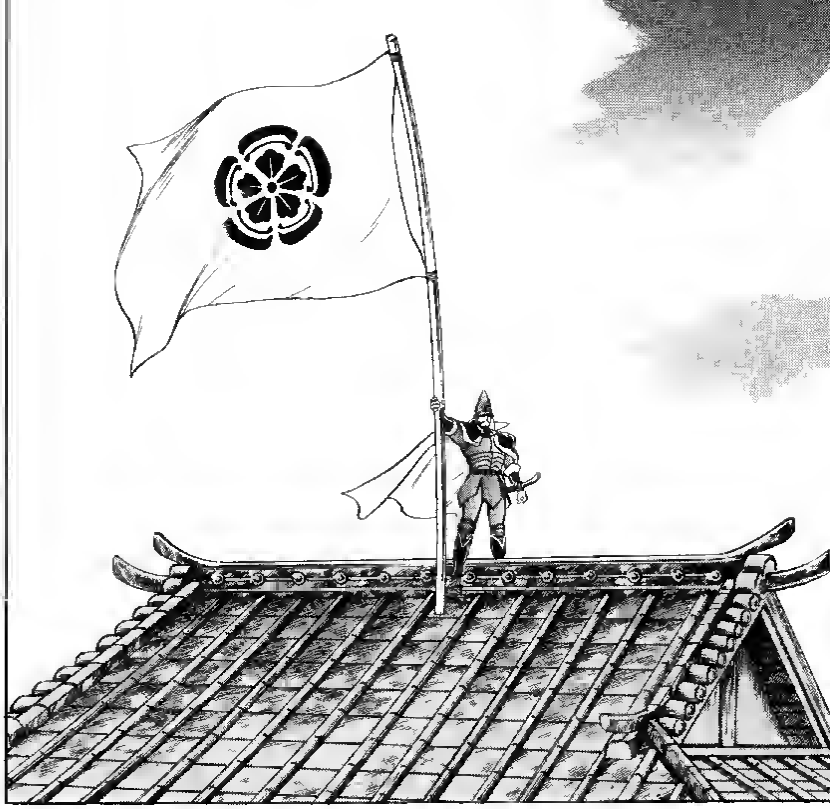
Huh?


I mean, just tell me whether there's a moat around the castle! If not, we fucking charge!
What's with you, man? You're the slowest scout I've ever seen! Can't you tell?

Guess it's back to the basics of war...
Gehhe hehe...

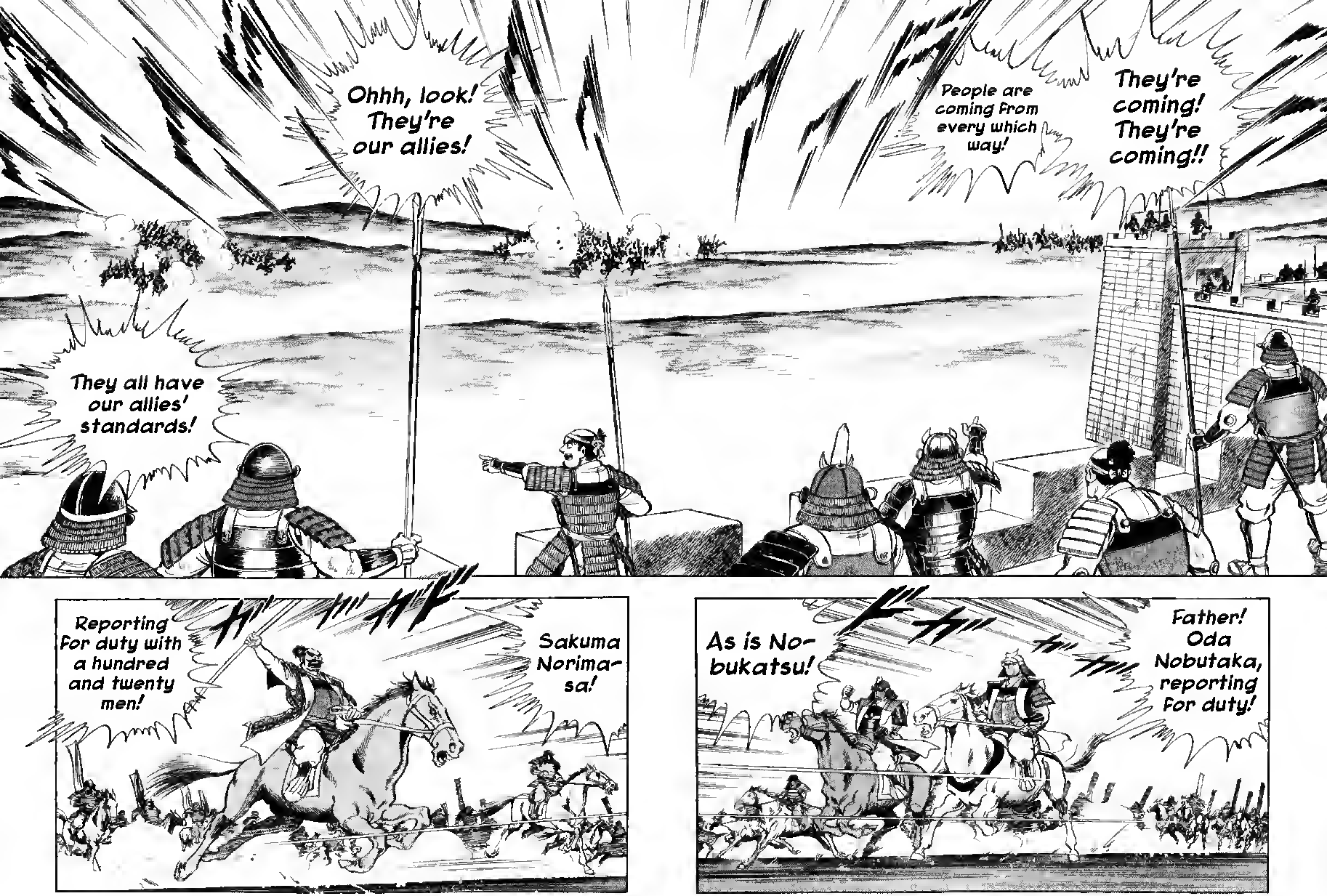
What !?
Wh...
Impos-sible!
I...
There's no mistaking it! That is the Oda's Flowering Quince crest!!
And it is none other than Lord Oda standing by the standard!

ADADAH...



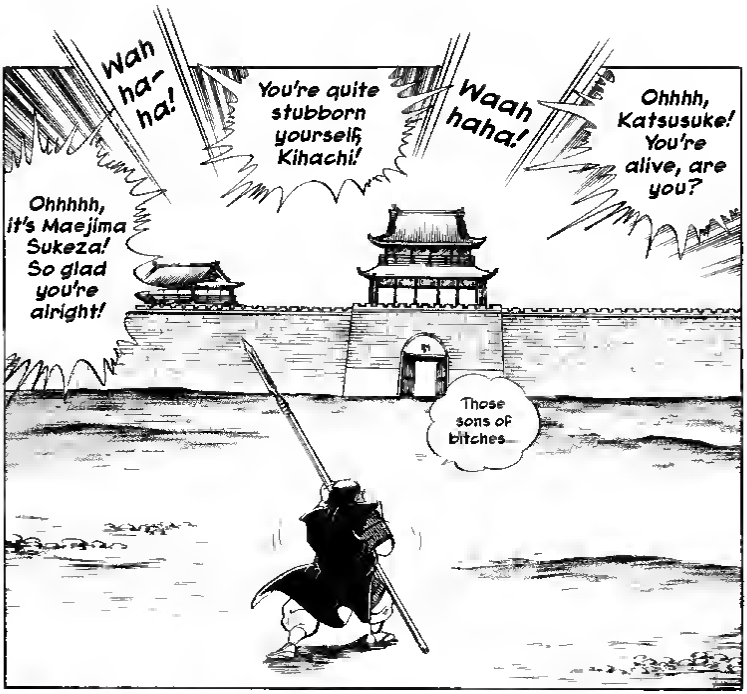
W, what's going on—?
Ahhhhh ...
Ohhhhh ...

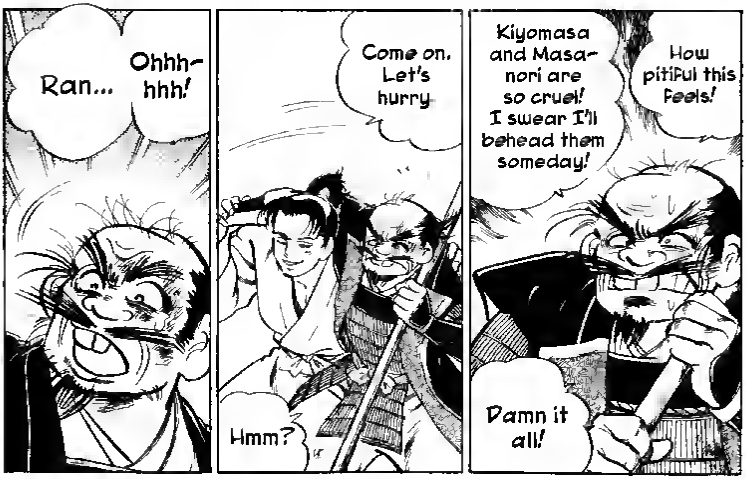
He's alive! Waaaaaaaa aaaaaaugh!
It's the Lord!
My Lord! My Lord!
Waaaa aaaaa aaaaa augh!!
Wait, wait, wait, you damn scoun-drels!
What're you gonna do about me? You callous bastards!


Ohhh, look! They're our allies!
People are coming from every which way!
They're coming! They're coming!!
They all have our allies' standards!
Reporting for duty with a hundred and twenty men!
Sakuma Norimasa!
As is Nobukatsu!
Father! Oda Nobutaka, reporting for duty!

My lord! Gonroku is here!
Shibata Katsuie has arrived!
Kuroda Kanbei!
I bring five hundred men!!
Along with twenty thousand guns and a million rounds!

Are you dissatisfied?
I have defended these to the death!
Open the gates!!
My Lord!
Open the gates!


Wah ha-ha!
You're quite stubborn yourself, Kihachi!
Waah haha!
Ohhhh, Katsusuke! You're alive, are you?
Ohhhhh, it's Maejima Sukeza! So glad you're alright!
Those sons of bitches


Ran...
Ohhh-hhh!
Come on. Let's hurry
Hmm?
Kiyomasa and Masanori are so cruel! I swear I'll behead them someday!
How pitiful this feels!
Damn it all!

You truly have far more kindness than those fools...
You're such a good boy.
Well, haha haha...
Lord Chikuzen,
Something on my face...?
Hmm?
than the Lord Chikuzen from the other world.
your face looks far better
The other world..? The hell are you talking about?

Jianzhou
Jurchen Tribe
Suksuhu Clan,
Huzhi Village
.....
.....
Those provincial Yeren...
seem to be in an uproar over something.
They say some oddballs with their hair tied on top of their heads

What shall we do, Chief?
are ravaging the territory of the Waerka, as if they owned the place...

Nurhaci (age 28)
A mighty man of the Jiangzhou Jurchens. History says he would later defeat the Ming and become the founder of the Qing Dynasty— But...
If those idiots want a fight, they're on.

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

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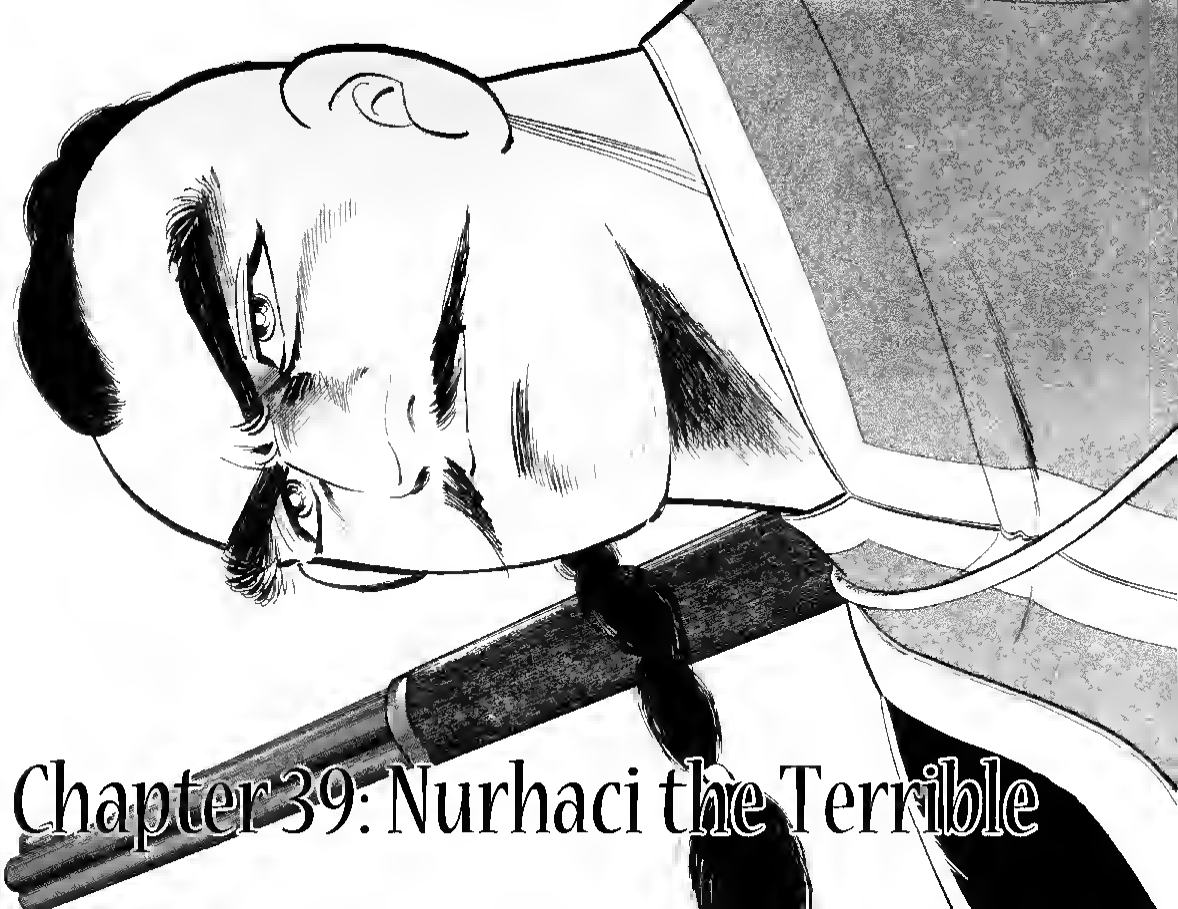
QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

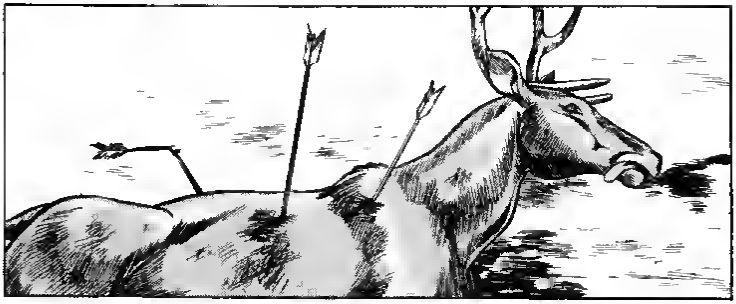
CHAPTER 38

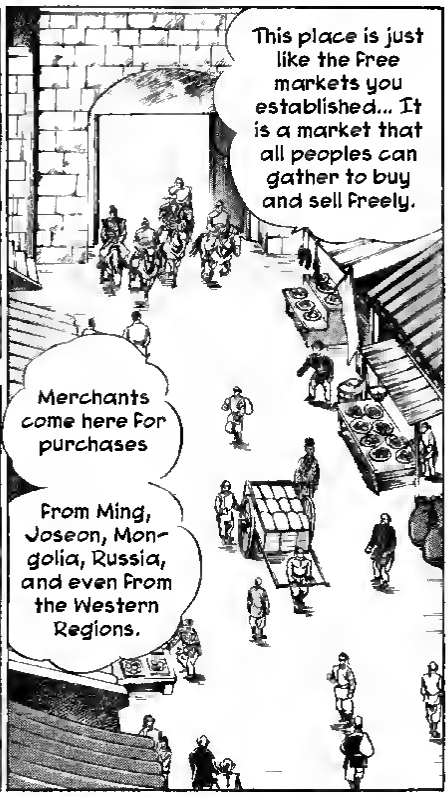


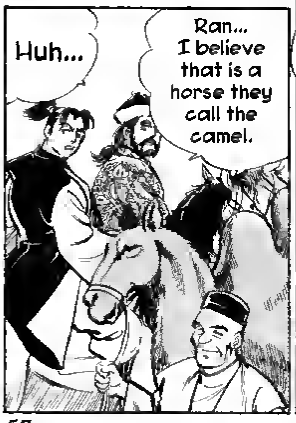
Chapter 39: Nurhaci the Terrible

How do the people of this land live?
We ought to conquer the entire Yeren Jurchen kingdom at once...
The other Jurchen kingdoms have learned of our invasion.
They have farmed this land since the days of yore, but with so many mountains, they cannot be said to be blessed with arable land.
To the West, the desert region of Mongolia.
To the North is the woodland region of Russia.
The land that they call Yeren is expansive, even among the Jurchen kingdoms,
and no one has been strong enough to unite the whole region...
The main occupation of the people...
is this.

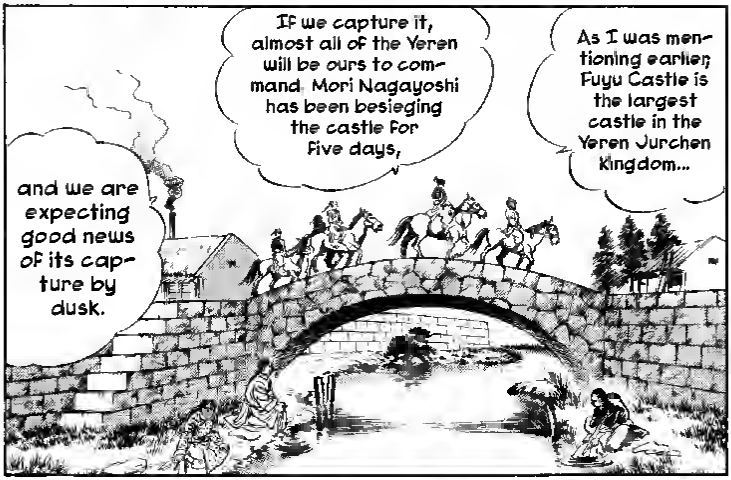
They live by hunting animals from tigers to bears and boars, and selling their pelts.
Almost all of the Jurchens are hunter tribes.
The marten can be sold at a particularly high price.
is because they have rigorously trained from daily hunting.
The reason that the Jurchen are more skilled in battle than the agricultural Han




This place is just like the Free markets you established... It is a market that all peoples can gather to buy and sell freely.
Merchants come here for purchases
From Ming, Joseon, Mongolia, Russia, and even from the Western Regions.

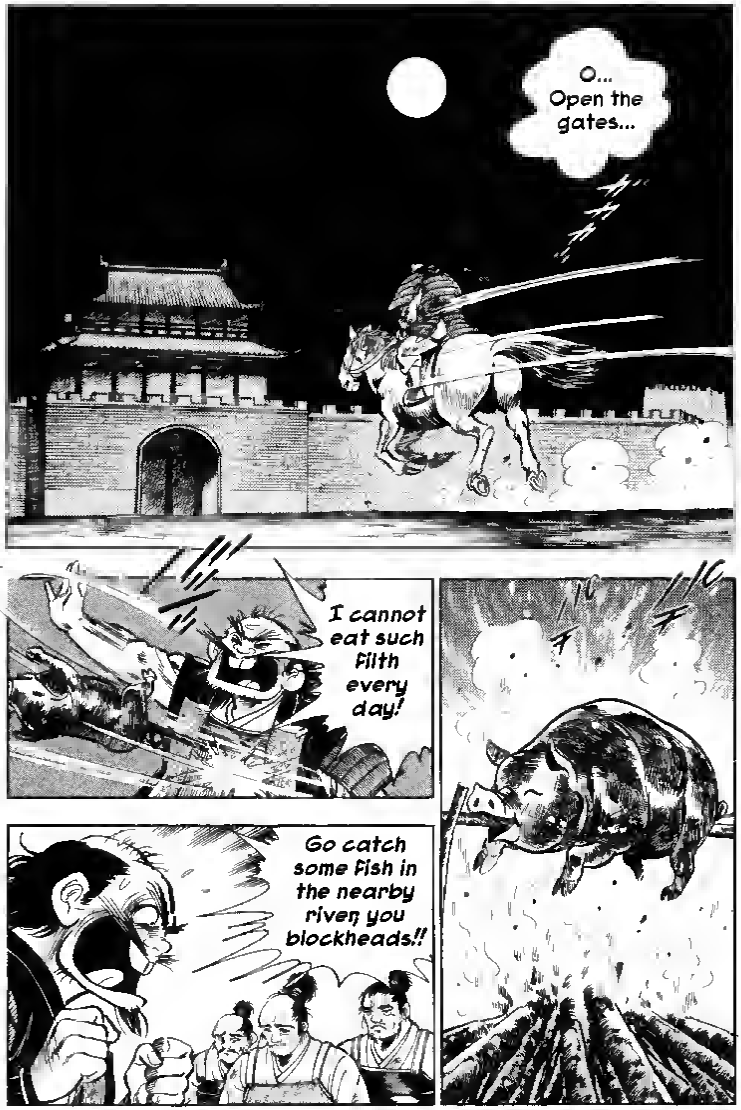

Huh...
Ran... I believe that is a horse they call the camel.

The sables are well-used among nobility around the world for their pelts.
Sables are high-grade items, while yellow martens are inferior items.
That must be a shop selling the martens I mentioned before.
What are those people crowding around?
They have been sold in our country, as well.
They are precious goods that only have medicinal value after being exposed to the elements for ten years.
And these people here are crowding around a counter for wild carrots, the "king of herbs".
Yes, my lord.
They have strong soldiers and the assets to support them... That alone is sufficient.
This Jurchen kingdom may even be capable of conquering the Ming.
Jurchen chieftains amass wealth by making a profit from them at these markets.
These two together are called "The Profit of Martens and Carrots".


As I was mentioning earlier, Fuyu Castle is the largest castle in the Yoren Jurchen Kingdom...
If we capture it, almost all of the Yoren will be ours to command. Mori Nagayoshi has been besieging the castle for five days,
and we are expecting good news of its capture by dusk.

HUFF...
HUFF...

What an enormous sunset this is...

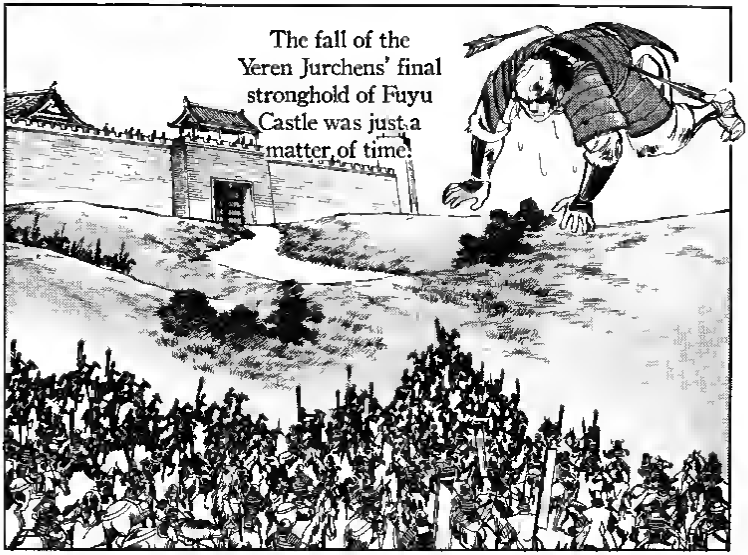

O... Open the gates...
I cannot eat such filth every day!
Go catch some fish in the nearby river, you blockheads!!

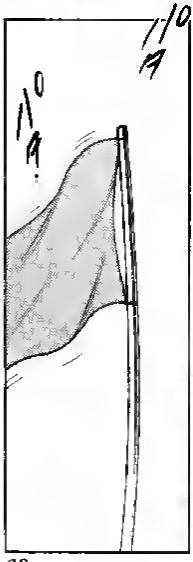
Kiyomasa! Are the pickled vegetables ready yet?
Ahhhh... I wish I could have some tea soup with pickles ..
You'll have to wait a little while longer
I thought it was just your head that was inflexible. Now I see your stomach is, too.
When in the country, do as the country-men do.
A retainer of Lord Mori Nagayoshi has just returned to the castle!
Report-ing in!!
What !?
His report says that Lord Mori Nagayoshi of the first division has been captured, and the three-hundred-man division has been wiped out!
But...
Good. All that remains is to educate the people.
We must demon-strate the Lord's authority to all.

Tell us more!!
Hey! Wake up!

They crashed upon us like a tsunami...
The red wave... The blue wave...

What the hell happened out there!?
Such a sluggish oaf! Tell us already!!
Pull yourself together and remember what happened!
Hey! Wake up! You're in friendly territory now!
W... Water...
I think he's become delirious!
A tsunami? This deep in the mountains? Don't be so absurd!

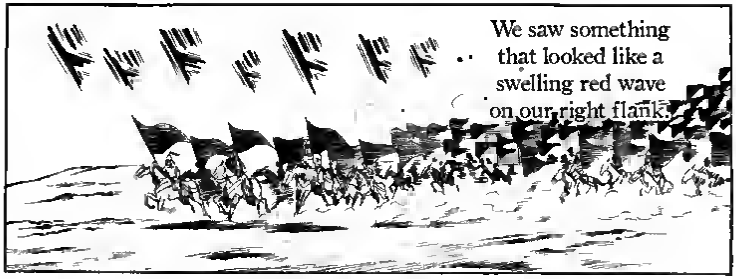

The fall of the Yeren Jurchens' final stronghold of Fuyu Castle was just a matter of time.



The only thing out of the ordinary was that there was a single yellow flag in front of the gate.

Our army overwhelmed them, as always, and all we had to do was wait until we could storm the castle.

Charge!
But just before the gate was breached...
Everything was going as planned.
What's that sound!?


We saw something that looked like a swelling red wave on our right flank.

And what seemed to be a billowing white wave on our left flank.

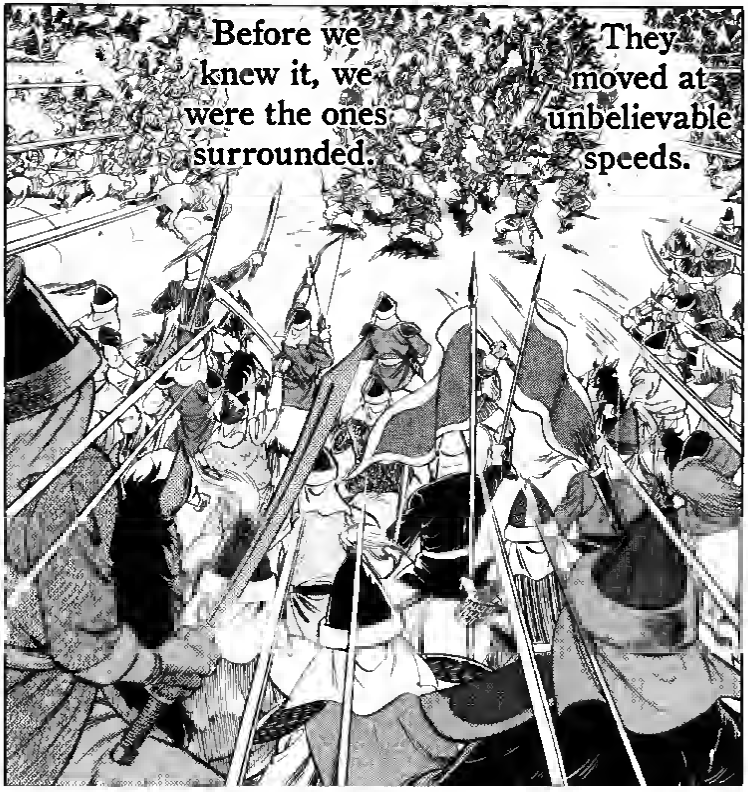
Then a massive enemy army came charging at us from behind, with an indigo flag at the head.

We refuse to let these outsiders act like they own the place!
Now is not the time to hold hostility to fellow Jurchens!

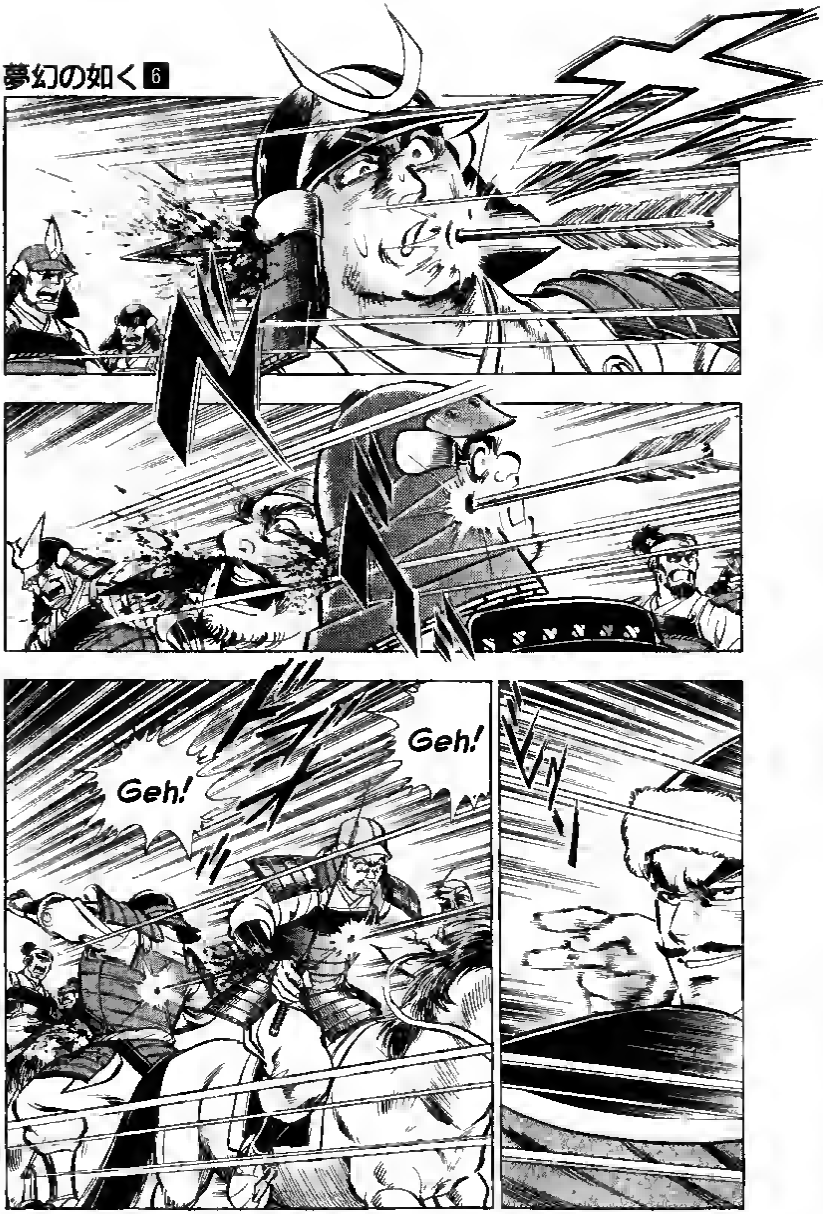
YEEEEEEEE AAAAAAAAAA AAHHHHHH!

Ohhhh! That's the standard of Nurhaci of the Jiangzhou!
Nurhaci... Nurhaci's come to reinforce us!

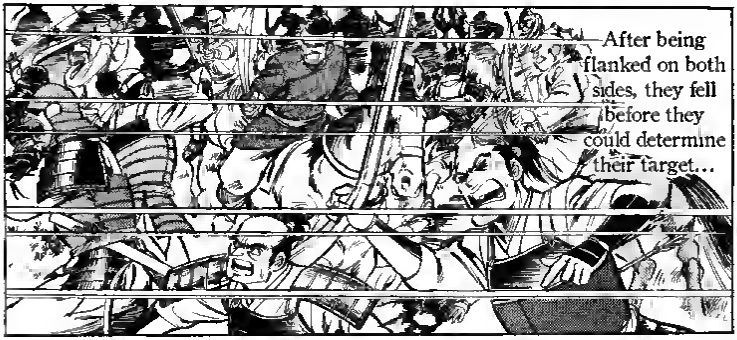
We are the army of Oda Nobunaga!
Do not retreat! Onward! Onward!

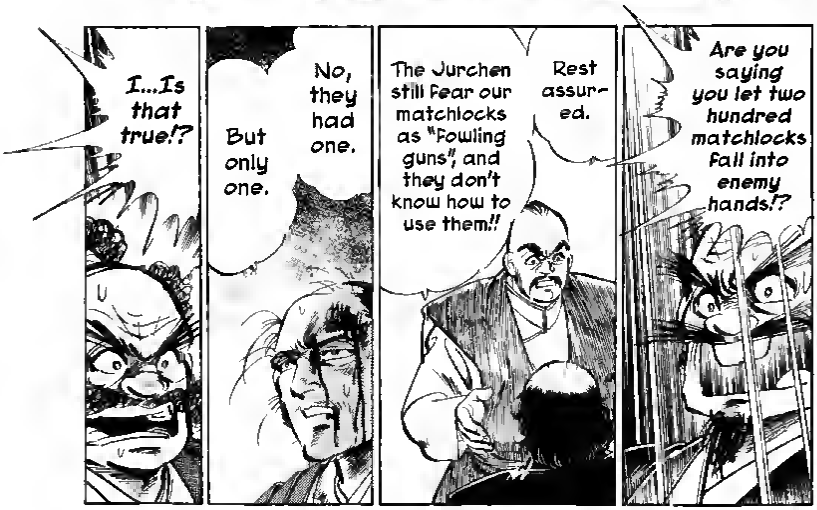

Before we knew it, we were the ones surrounded.
They moved at unbelievable speeds.

What the hell!?
They place the yellow flag at their hunting target, then divide between the red flags and white flags on the flanks, and the indigo flags at the rear, and corner their opponent towards the yellow flag
That's the "cornering" tactic!
The Jiangzhou Jurchen, Aisin-Gioro Nurhaci!
but there's only one man that's incorporated it in battle..
It's a hunting method,

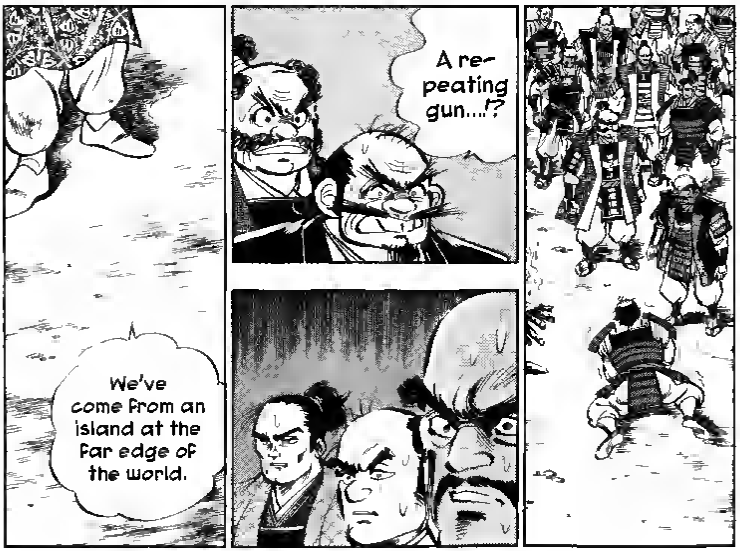

Geh!
Geh!

I know they left here with two hundred matchlocks!!
But what about the gunmen!?

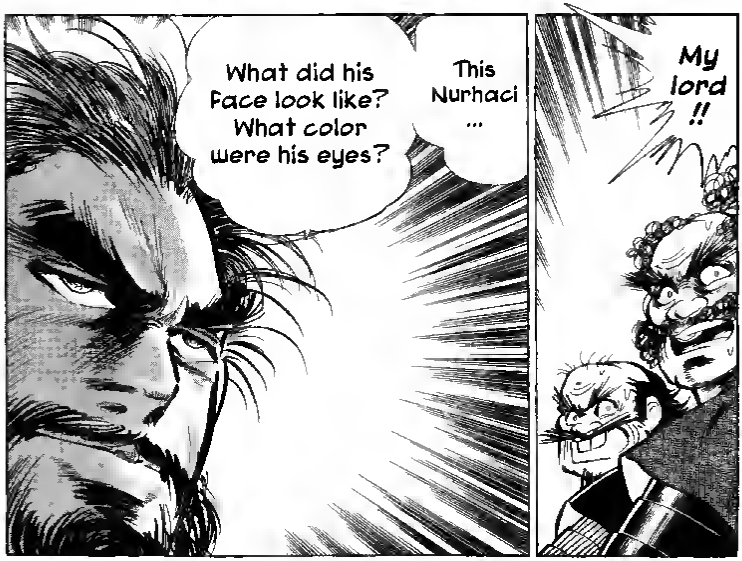

After being flanked on both sides, they fell before they could determine their target...


I...Is that true!?
But only one.
No, they had one.
The Jurchen still fear our matchlocks as "Fowling guns", and they don't know how to use them!!
Rest assured.
Are you saying you let two hundred matchlocks fall into enemy hands!?

Gehh!
Tcch!
I had thought there were no match-locks in this king-dom!!


We've come from an island at the far edge of the world.
A repeating gun...!?

If there were no challenges such as this,
it would not be the least bit interesting...


What did his face look like? What color were his eyes?
This Nurhaci ...
My lord !!

W...
Well...
He was a spitting image of you in your youth.

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 39

Chapter 40: Nurhaci's Secret Tale

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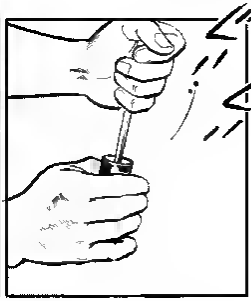
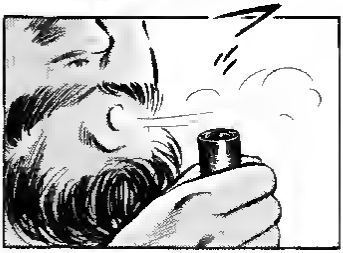
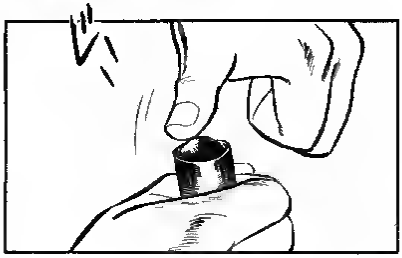






What are you so intent on making?
You've been at this for at least a whole koku!
This isn't right.
FRRRRRRRT!
Dwaa augh!!
Mmm...
I suppose it must be the sudden change in my diet that's behind it.
My farts have been odorous these days.
W-What is it?

ドカン!
ドカン!

W...What kind of trick i...is this?
M-My lord!
Four rounds in just twenty seconds.
What do you think, Ran?

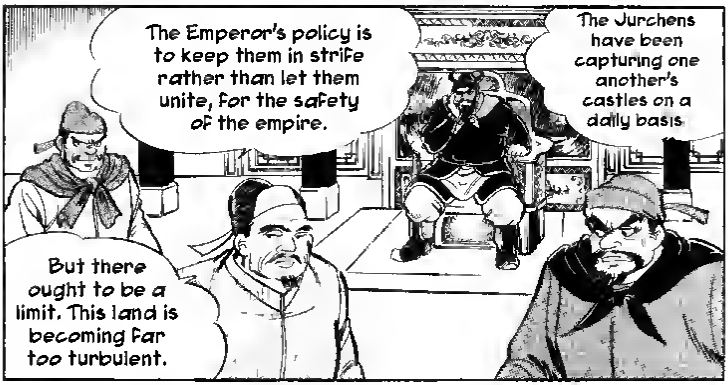
So why not have the bullets ready-made?
Normally, you would put the gunpowder in the barrel, pack it with a wick,
then put in the bullet, and pack it in again.
I made a paper tube, packed it with gunpowder, and placed the bullet inside.
If we made these tube-bullets prior to battle, we could fire a hundred or two rounds in no time at all.

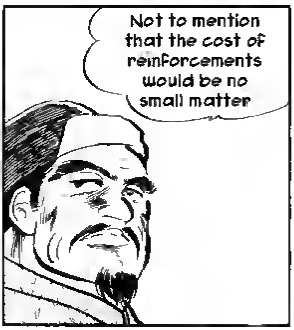
Now we can have one gun do the work of ten!
Amazing! That's so amazing!
You bet the curly hairs on your balls I am!
My Lord is a genius!
He's a genius
No, Five rounds is the max. Any more than that and the barrel will jam.

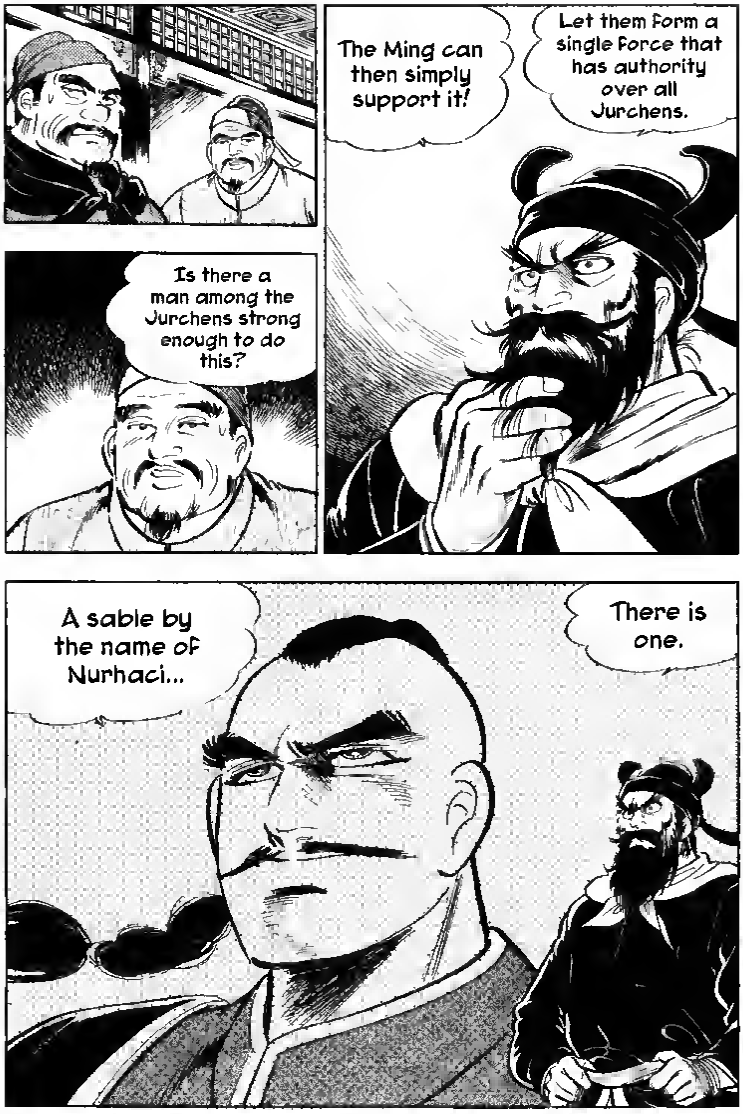
You dogs that wag your tails to Ming! How dare you growl at us! Give 'em hell!
Descendants of Genghis Khan be damned! Crush the dried-out Mongols!!

Reporting in!
Liaodong Ming Outpost
Tieling
The Haixi Jurchen tribes, the Southern Hada and the Northern Yehe, have begun warring again!
How many reinforcements should we send to the South!?
Regional Commander of Liaodong
General Li Chenghang

Let those incompetents that know nothing but war slaughter themselves all they like! It'll be more peaceful with them gone!!
We need not send reinforcements!!
Yes, sir!

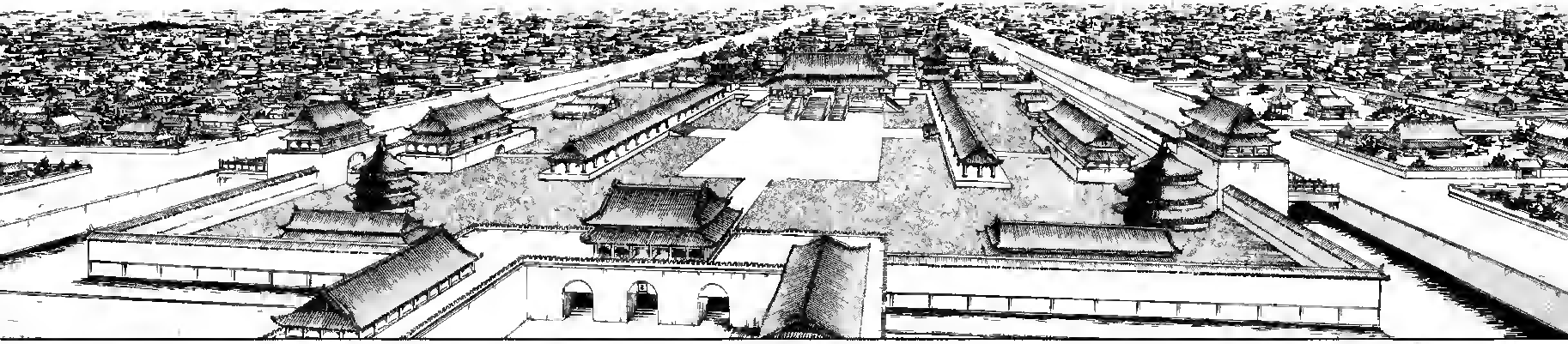

The Emperor's policy is to keep them in strife rather than let them unite, for the safety of the empire.
The Jurchens have been capturing one another's castles on a daily basis
But there ought to be a limit. This land is becoming far too turbulent.

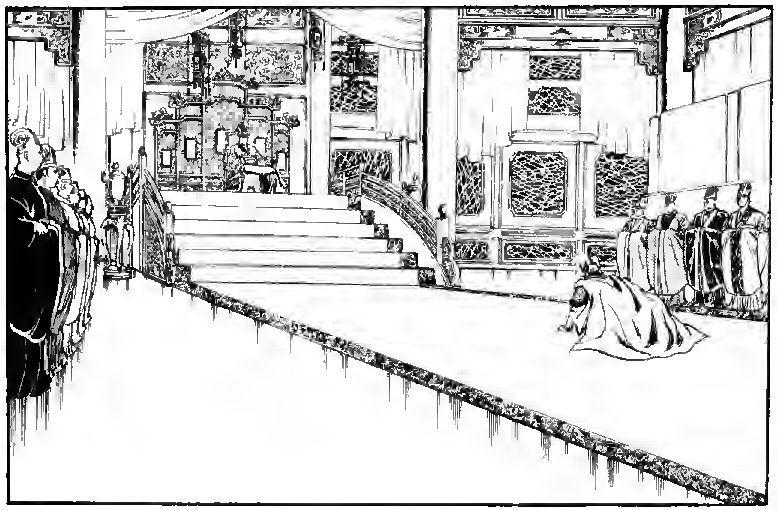

Not to mention that the cost of reinforcements would be no small matter

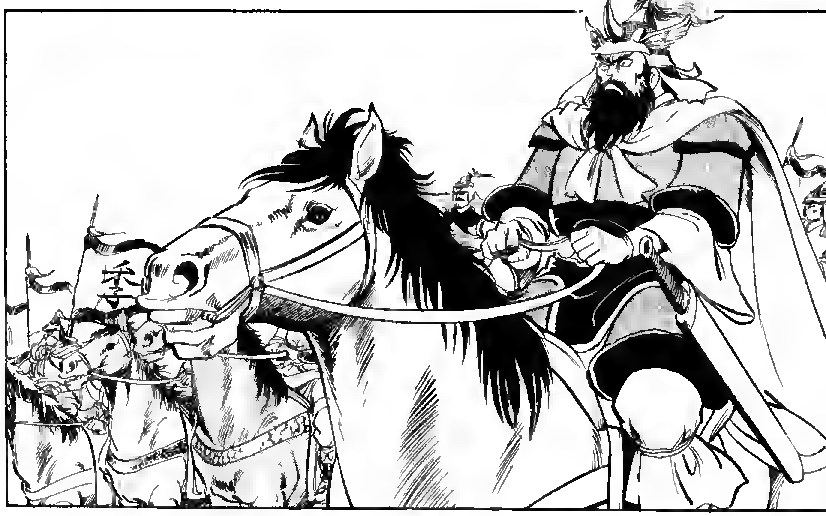

Let them form a single force that has authority over all Jurchens.
The Ming can then simply support it!
Is there a man among the Jurchens strong enough to do this?
There is one.
A sable by the name of Nurhaci...

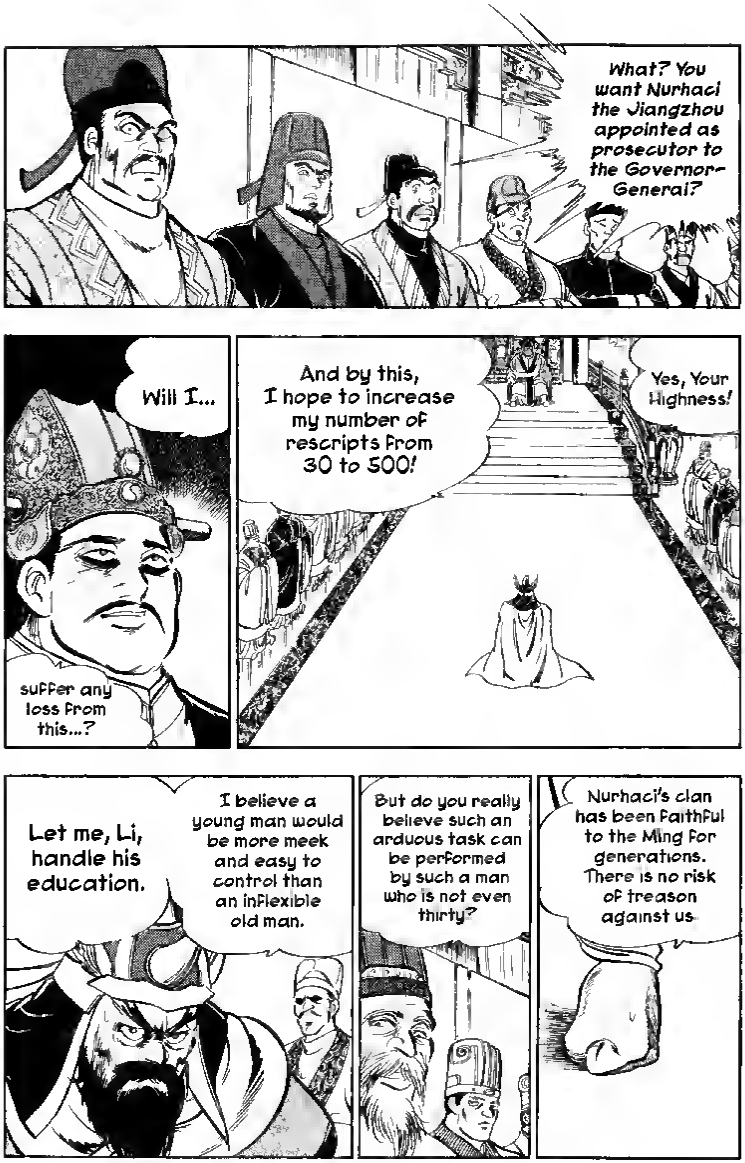
Capital of the
Ming Empire

PEKING





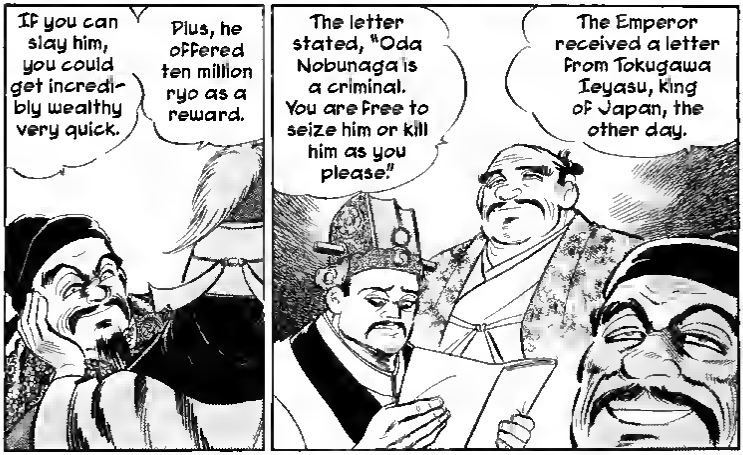



What? You want Nurhaci the Jiangzhou appointed as prosecutor to the Governor-General?
Will I...
suffer any loss from this...?
And by this, I hope to increase my number of rescripts from 30 to 500!
Yes, Your Highness!
Let me, Li, handle his education.
I believe a young man would be more meek and easy to control than an inflexible old man.
But do you really believe such an arduous task can be performed by such a man who is not even thirty?
Nurhaci's clan has been faithful to the Ming for generations. There is no risk of treason against us.

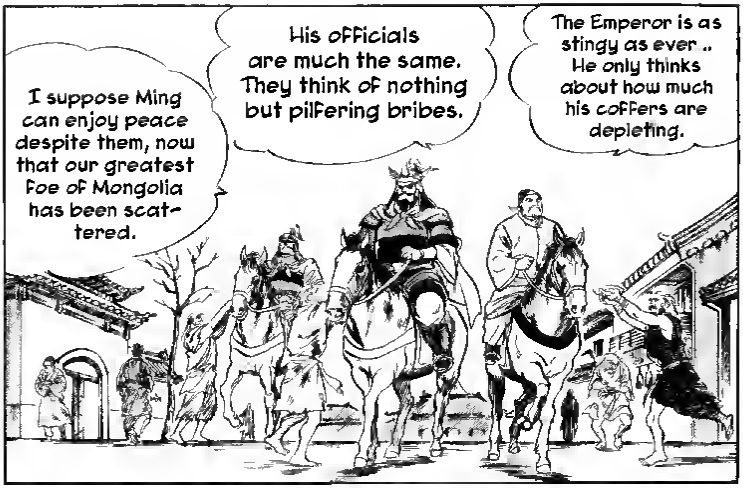
I would like for you to grant General Li's request.
I beseech the Prime Minister's opinion.
I presume you have a gift for me?
While you are here, General..
But I will spend no money for it.
Very well. I shall allow it.
But of course. I will bear the financial burden.
so he desires the powerful herb that is the carrot.
The Emperor has had some trouble rising to the occasion,
But of course, and plenty of it...!

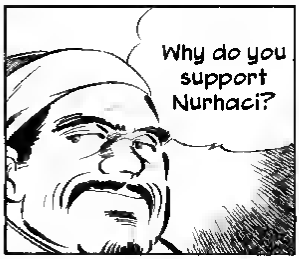
I hope we can continue to get along.
You scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours.
And I presume you have a gift for me as well, General?
Of course, I'll ensure your pocketing of military expenses doesn't come to the inspector's attention.
HAHAHA...
Yes, we have this silver for you, Prime Minister...
I have heard rumors of him.
You mean the man they once feared as the "Devil King of Japan"?
Have you heard of a Japanese man named Oda Nobunaga?
Oh, right. I'll give you a piece of information as a show of thanks.

!!
It would seem he has come to the Yeren Jurchens.

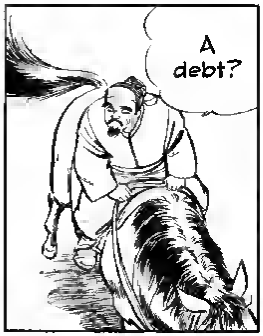

If you can slay him, you could get incredibly wealthy very quick.
Plus, he offered ten million ryo as a reward.
The letter stated, "Oda Nobunaga is a criminal. You are free to seize him or kill him as you please."
The Emperor received a letter from Tokugawa Ieyasu, King of Japan, the other day.

Ten million ryo...


I suppose Ming can enjoy peace despite them, now that our greatest foe of Mongolia has been scattered.
His officials are much the same. They think of nothing but pilfering bribes.
The Emperor is as stingy as ever .. He only thinks about how much his coffers are depleting.


Why do you support Nurhaci?

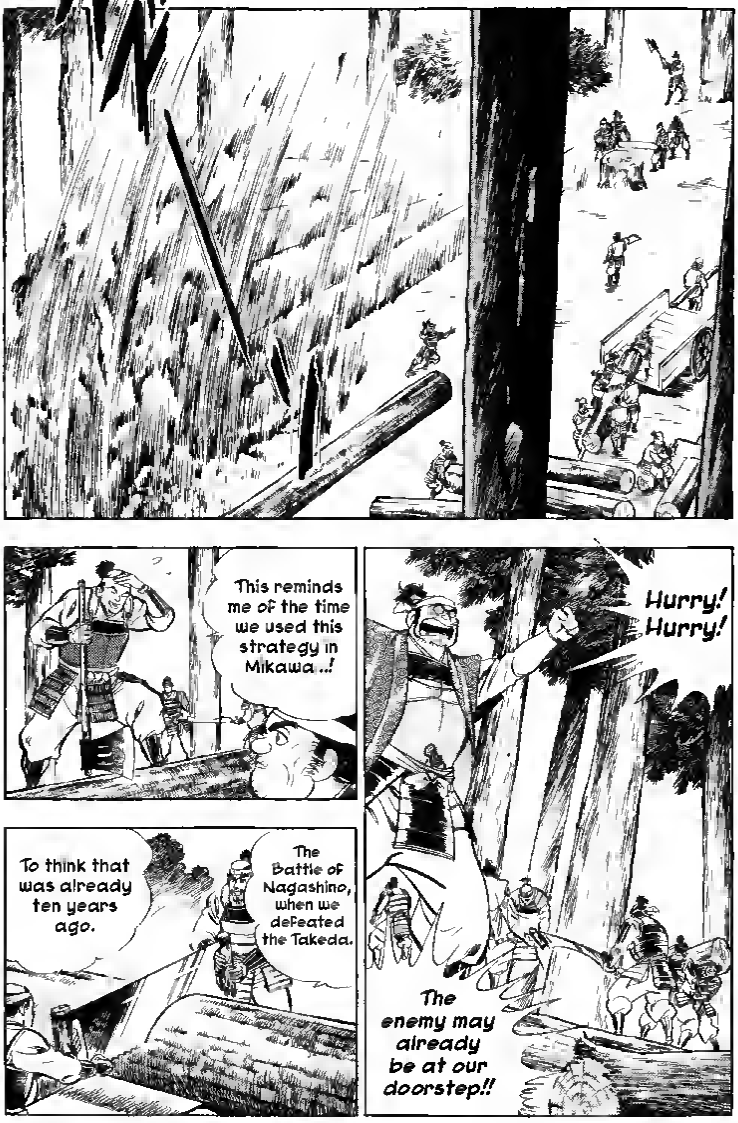
What is it?
I have something I wish to ask you, General

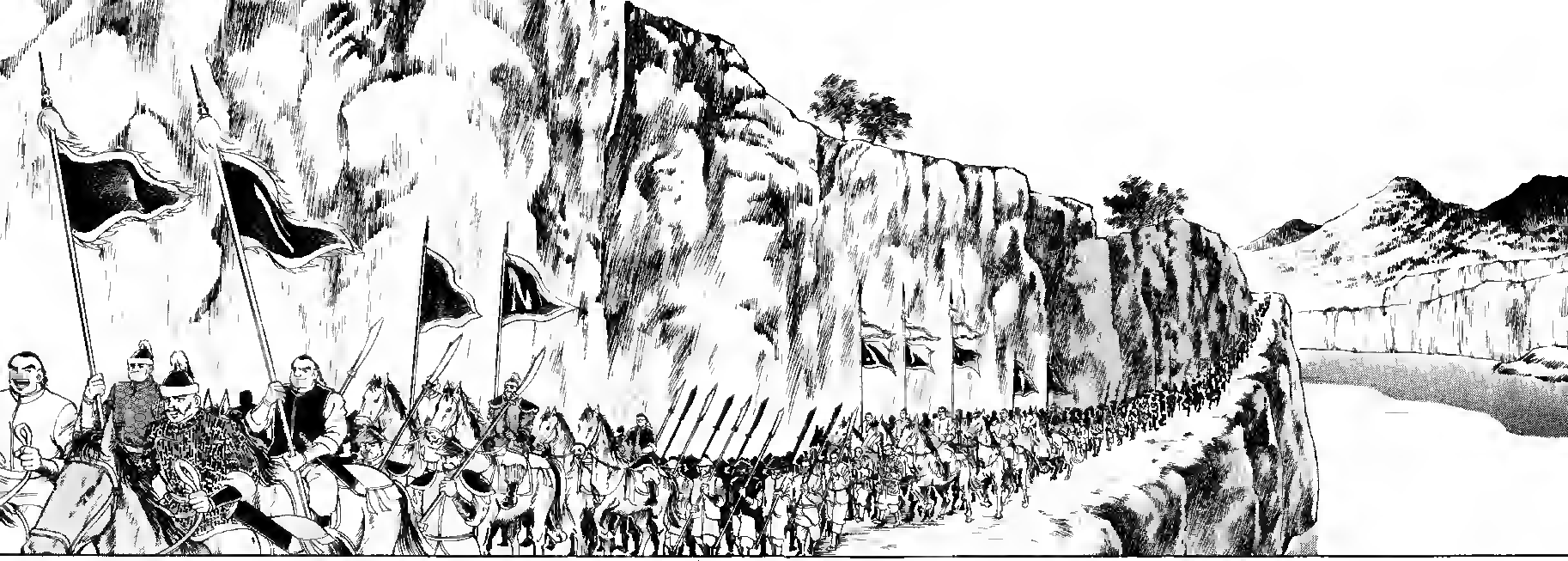

A debt?

Because I have a debt to him.

But I thought that Nikan Wailan, lord of Tulun Castle, was responsible for that...
Three years ago, when I was besieging Atai's castle of Gure, I killed his father and grandfather, who were our allies.
Not to mention that Ming has officially recognized their deaths as manslaughter, given Nurhaci a license for tribute trade, and appointed him as General Commander.
And that is why Nurhaci pursues him as his foe to this day.
Father !!
GrandFather Giocangga!!
He will be useful.

This is man-slaughter! Admit it!!
GrandFather and Father served as spearheads for the Ming!!
Why did you kill them!?
If you try to gloss over this, I won't consider the consequences of my retaliation!!
No telling...
Do you think he means that...?
The General is a calculating man--
There is not a single warrior in all of Ming
who possesses such hot blood as he.


This reminds me of the time we used this strategy in Mikawa..!
Hurry! Hurry!
To think that was already ten years ago.
The Battle of Nagashino, when we defeated the Takeda.
The enemy may already be at our doorstep!!



Now, these islanders...

How many did you say there were, Surhaci?

There were about three thousand, Brother!

Their countenances may resemble our own,

but they're the descendants of the weak-ass drifters that were driven off the continent! They're nothing to us!

I have indeed heard his name on the wind...

Oda Nobunaga ...

WAAH HAHA HA!

AH HA HA HA HA!

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

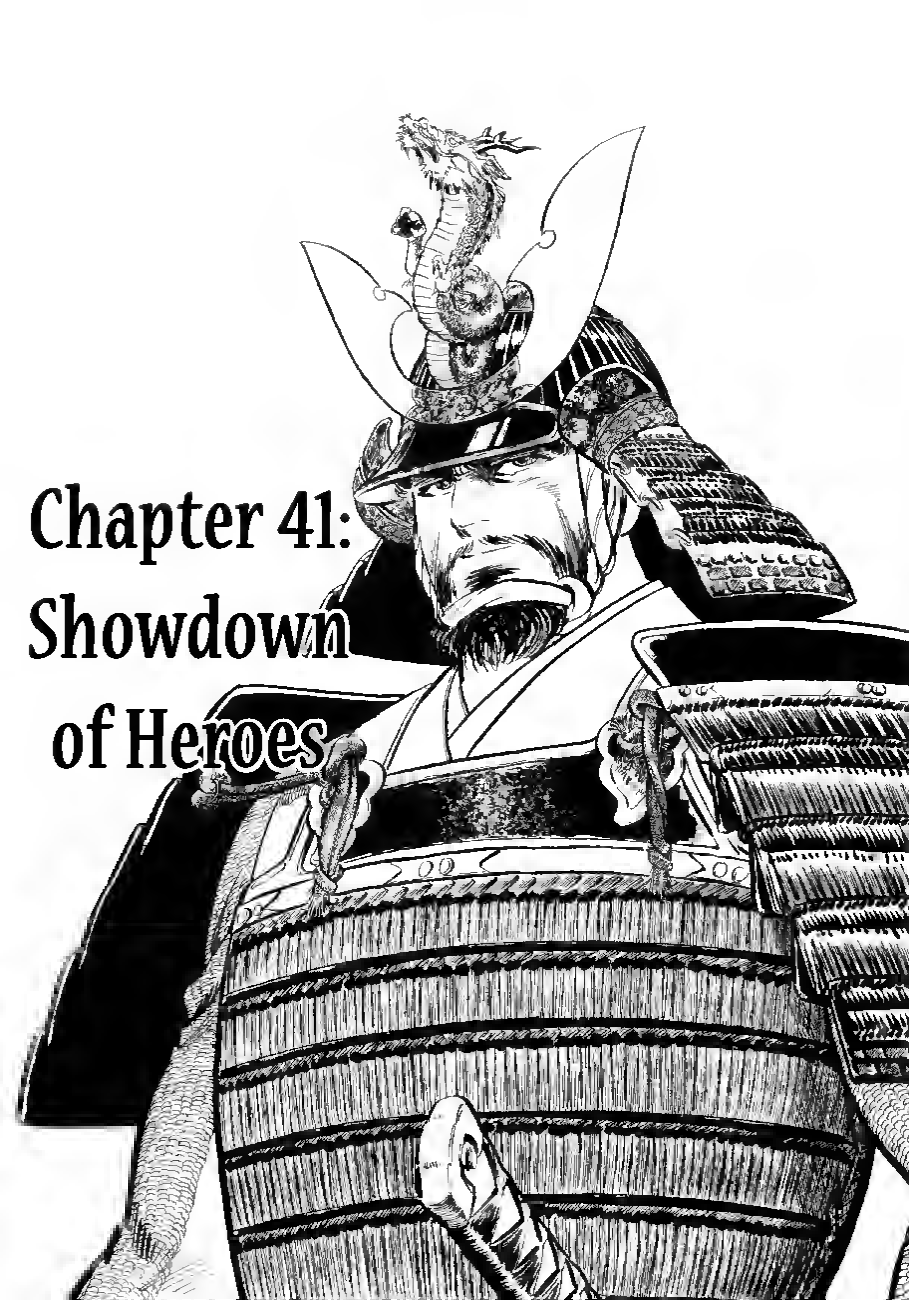
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

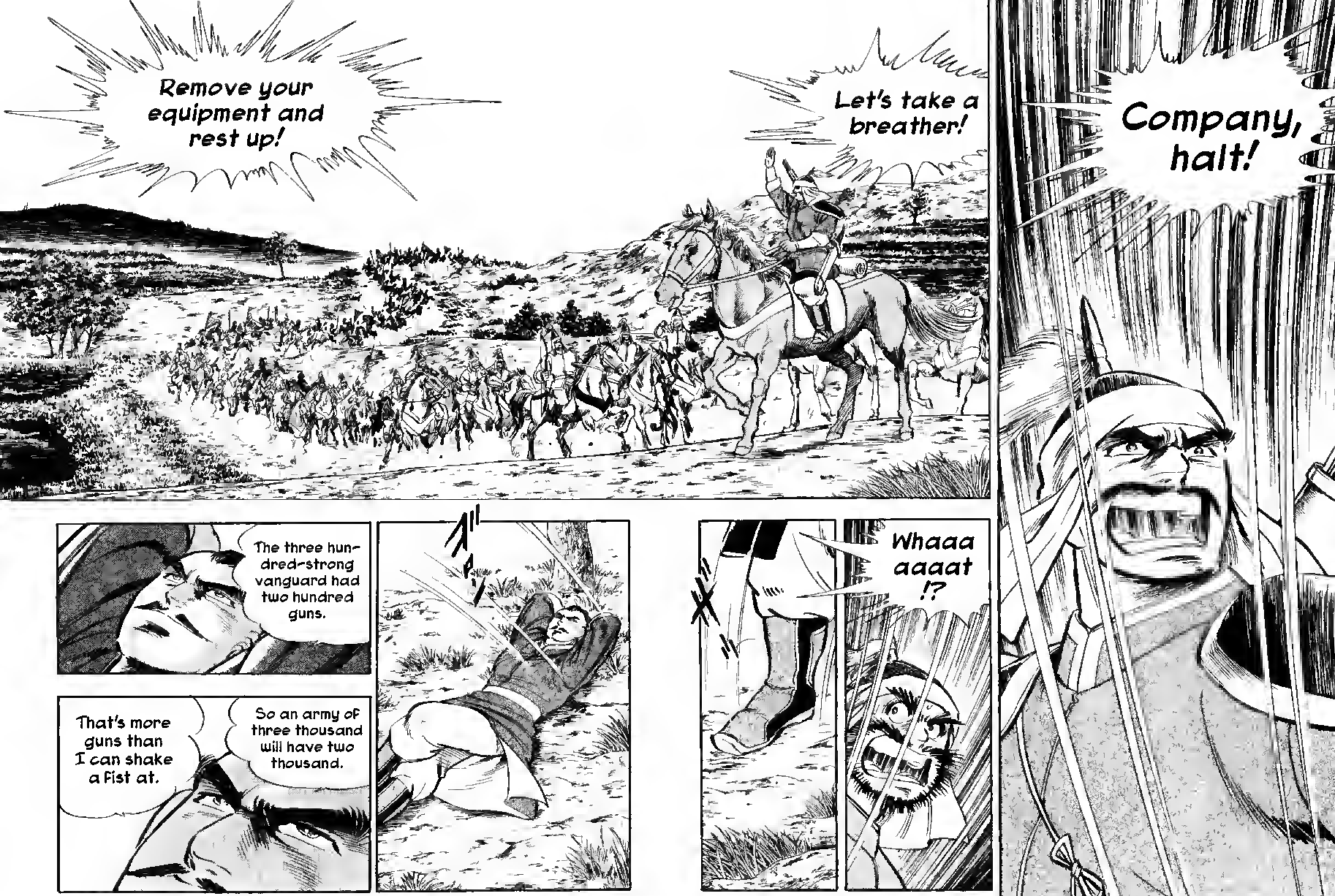
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

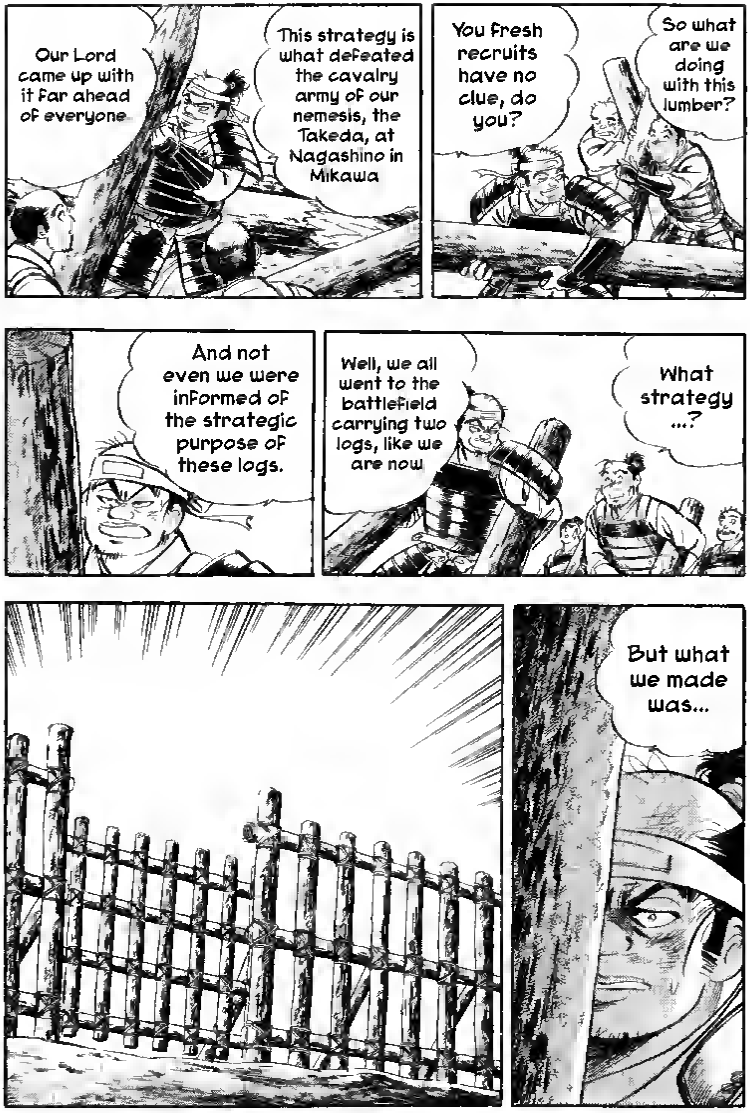
QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 40

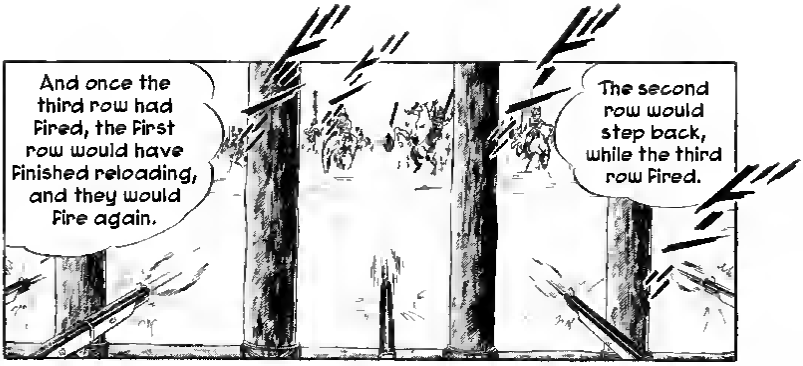


Chapter 41: Showdown of Heroes

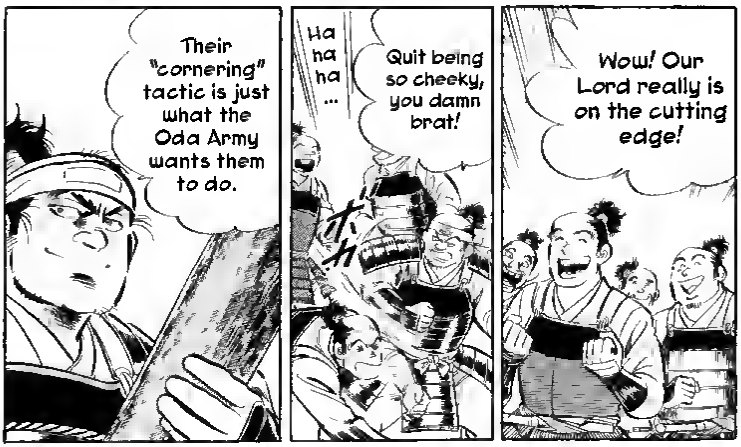

Company, halt!
Let's take a breather!
Remove your equipment and rest up!
Whaaa aaaat !?
The three hundred-strong vanguard had two hundred guns.
So an army of three thousand will have two thousand.
That's more guns than I can shake a fist at.


Our Lord came up with it far ahead of everyone.
This strategy is what defeated the cavalry army of our nemesis, the Takeda, at Nagashino in Mikawa
You fresh recruits have no clue, do you?
So what are we doing with this lumber?
And not even we were informed of the strategic purpose of these logs.
Well, we all went to the battlefield carrying two logs, like we are now
What strategy ...?
But what we made was...

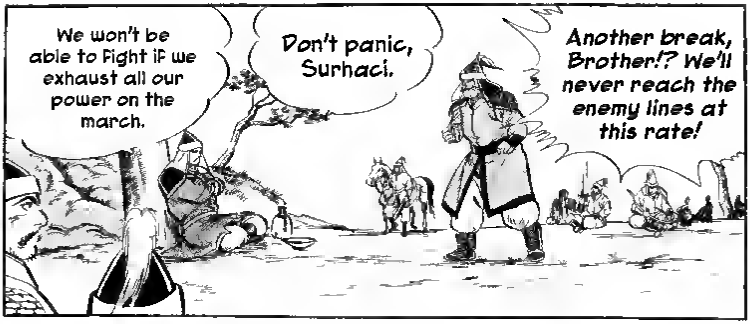
Our Lord created this to reduce that time.
As feared a weapon as the matchlock is, its weakness is that it takes too much time to reload after the first shot.
He lined up the gunmen in three rows in front of a fence.
In the meantime, the second row would step forward and fire.
they would step back and begin reloading.
After the first row fired...

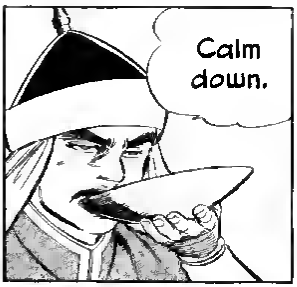

And once the third row had fired, the first row would have finished reloading, and they would fire again.
The second row would step back, while the third row fired.

And with the log fence in the way, not a single horse could get behind the lines.
This ceaseless gunfire annihilated the Takeda cavalry.


Their "cornering" tactic is just what the Oda Army wants them to do.
Ha ha ha ...
Quit being so cheeky, you damn brat!
Wow! Our Lord really is on the cutting edge!

This oughta do!
About 50 paces from the top of the hill's slope...
45
46
How numerous should we estimate the enemy to be?
Now as for the width...
F...Fine.
Because you said you wanted fish, Lord Chikuzen.
Why didn't you stop him, you damn fool? What if he encountered the enemy!?
He left to go fishing while he explored.
Where is the Lord?

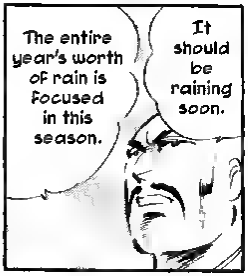

We won't be able to fight if we exhaust all our power on the march.
Don't panic, Surhaci.
Another break, Brother!? We'll never reach the enemy lines at this rate!

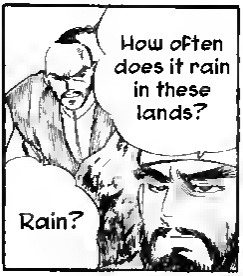

Calm down.

We oughta seize this chance and attack at once, or we'll lose our shot at victory!!
This is no time to be half-assed about this!

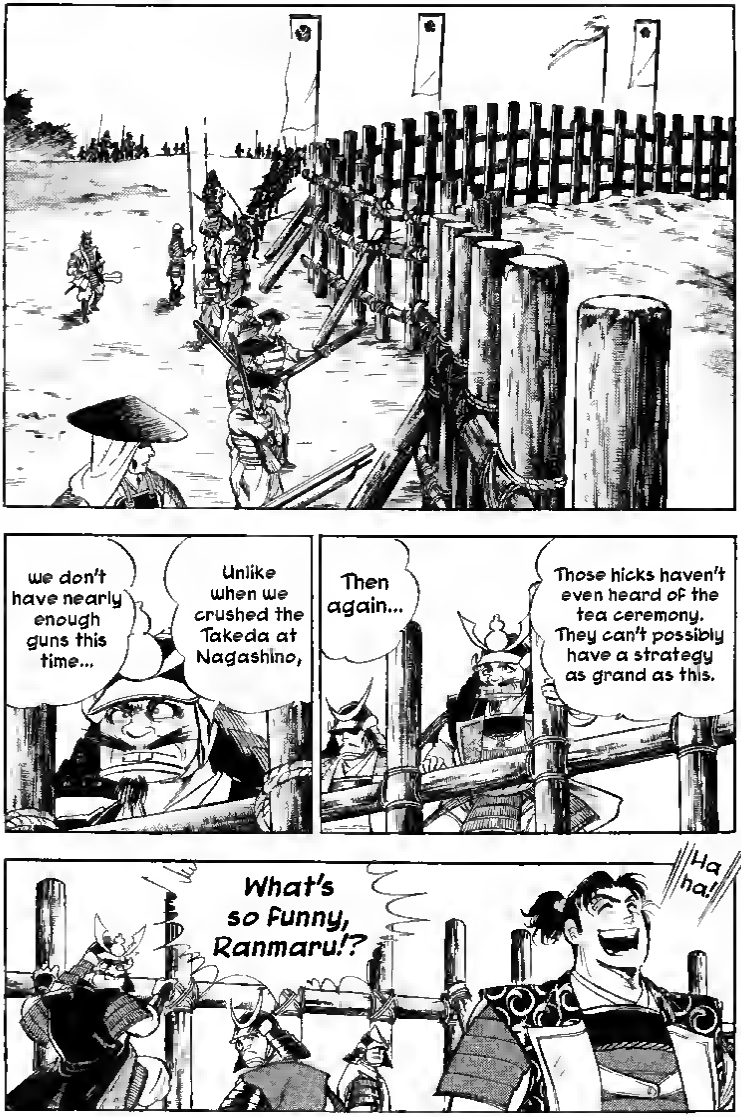
Fine! Then my division will go on ahead!!

Say that again, I dare you!!
I'm the commander here...
I won't permit any liberties, even from my own brother...
Am I understood?
Y...Yes, you're understood.
Hey! Band!
Play us a song to liven our spirits!

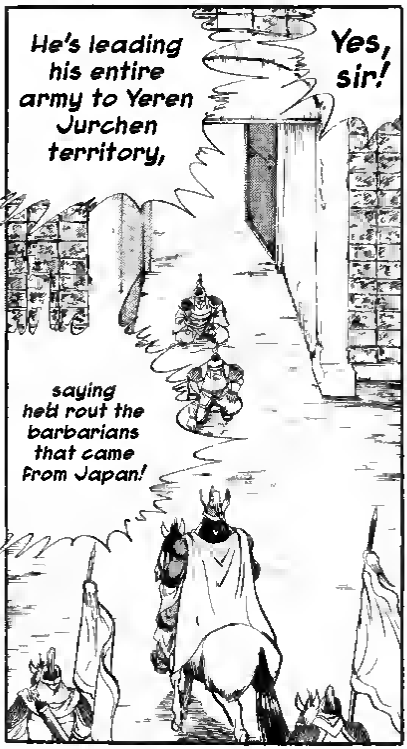

The entire year's worth of rain is focused in this season.
It should be raining soon.


How often does it rain in these lands?
Rain?

Yes, my lord?
Shishi-kura.

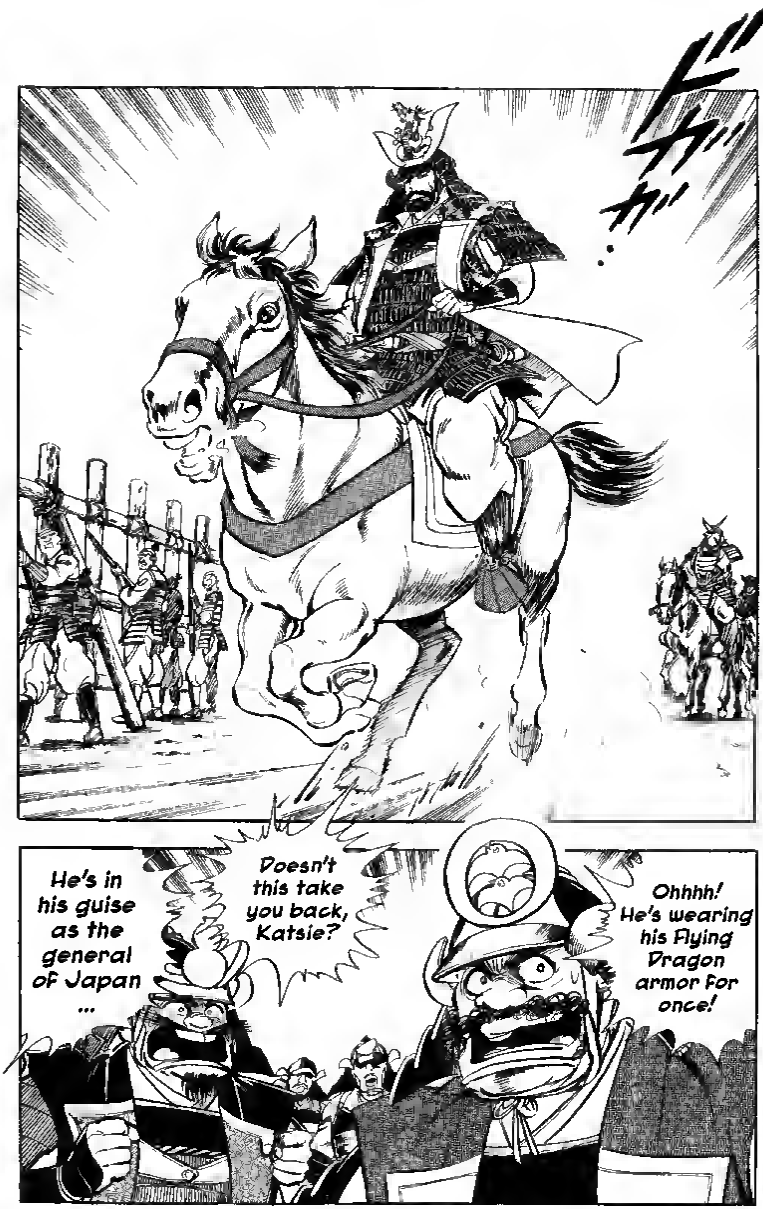

we don't have nearly enough guns this time...
Unlike when we crushed the Takeda at Nagashino,
Then again...
Those hicks haven't even heard of the tea ceremony. They can't possibly have a strategy as grand as this.
What's so Funny, Ranmaru!?
Ha ha!

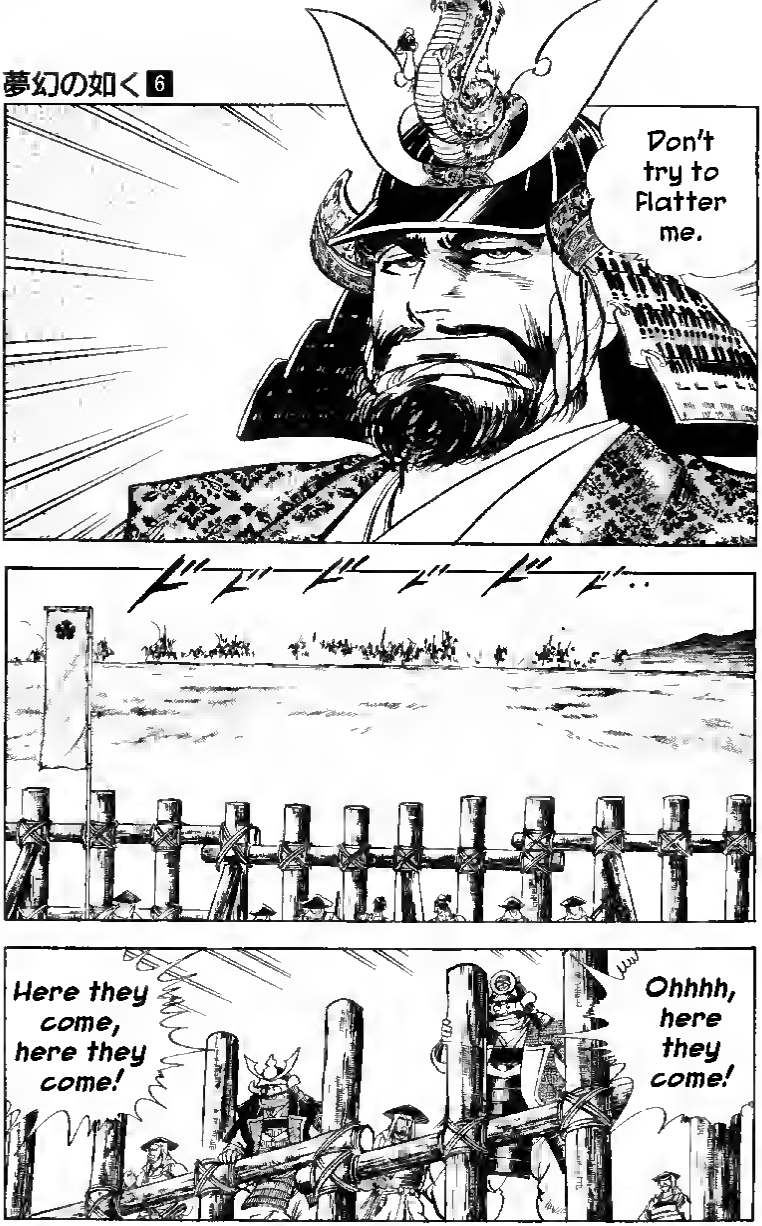
What?

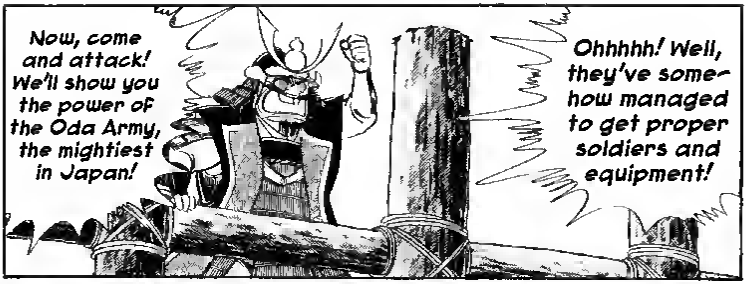

He's leading his entire army to Yeren Jurchen territory,
Yes, sir!
saying he'll rout the barbarians that came from Japan!

He's marched out?

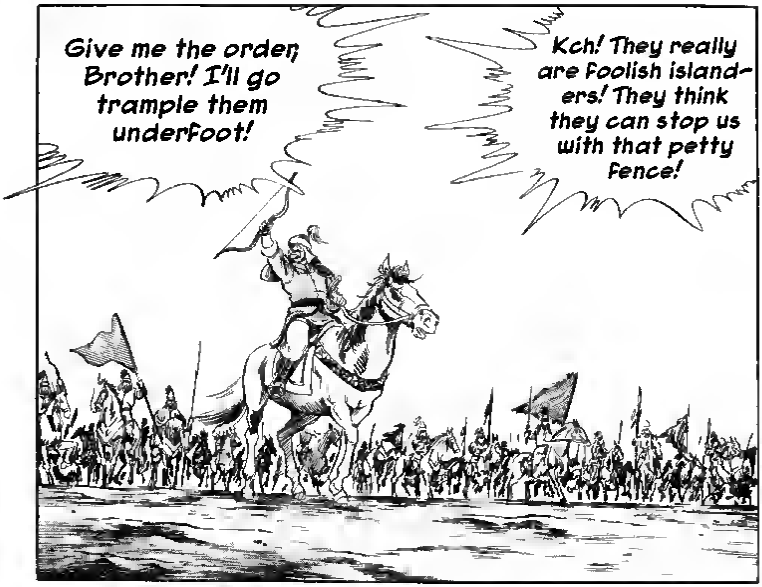
No, wait. He doesn't know about the reward yet.
I'm too late. Nurhaci's going to lay claim to the Japanese before me.
Where is the Lord?
Kiyomasa and Masanori aren't here, either!
Damn it all, the enemy could attack any moment! What the hell are they doing?
Shall I take the credit for Nurhaci's victory? It is ten million ryo, after all...
Hehhe...

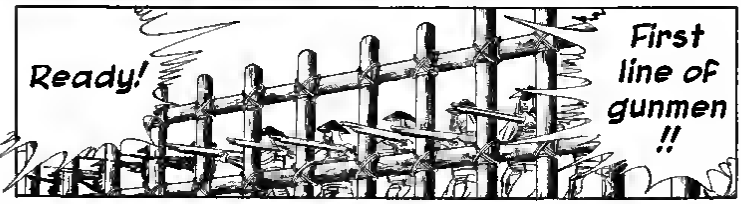

He's in his guise as the general of Japan ...
Doesn't this take you back, Katsie?
Ohhhh! He's wearing his Flying Dragon armor for once!


Don't try to flatter me.
ド…ド…ド…ド…ド…ド…
Here they come, here they come!
Ohhhh, here they come!


Now, come and attack! We'll show you the power of the Oda Army, the mightiest in Japan!
Ohhhhh! Well, they've somehow managed to get proper soldiers and equipment!

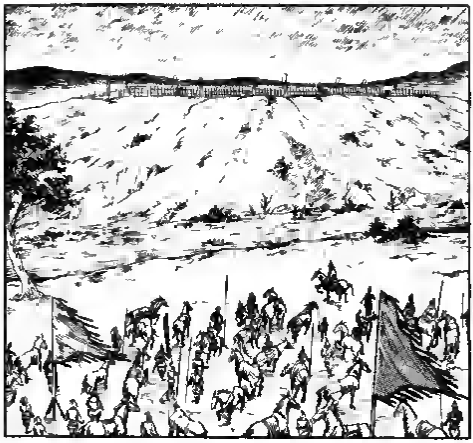
I guess they're more spineless than I thought...
The hell? I thought they'd charge us at once.


Give me the order, Brother! I'll go trample them underfoot!
Kch! They really are foolish islanders! They think they can stop us with that petty fence!


Ready!
First line of gunmen !!

Forget it.
Besides, I'm rather sleep-deprived.
But Brother!!
I'm just not feeling it now.

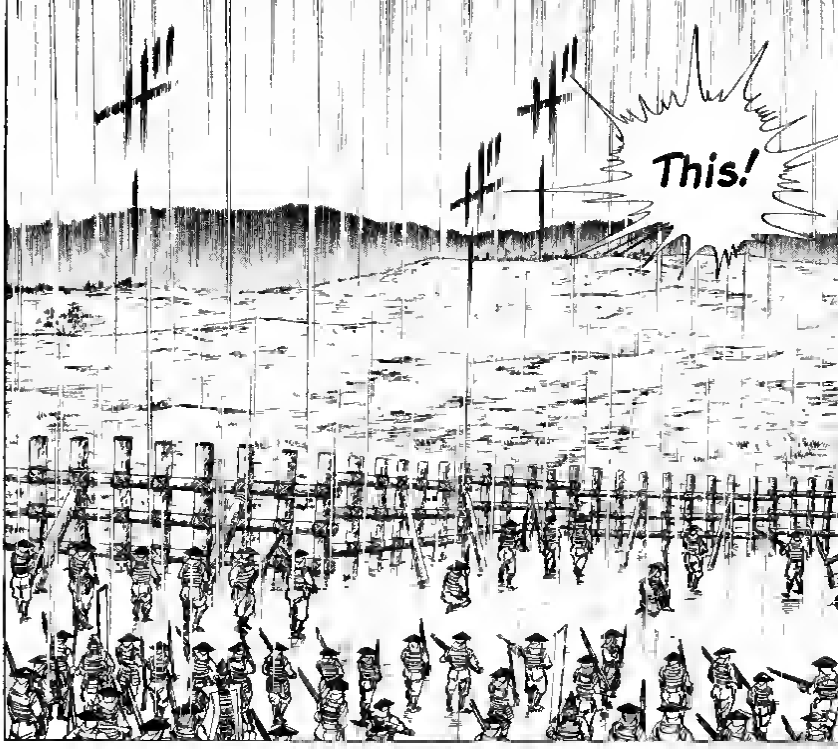
Ahh...
Hold on, Bro!
Let's pull back.
That kid's even better than the Takeda.
Hehhe hehe...
Ah haha haha!
Fwaah haha ha!
The hell...?
They fell back!

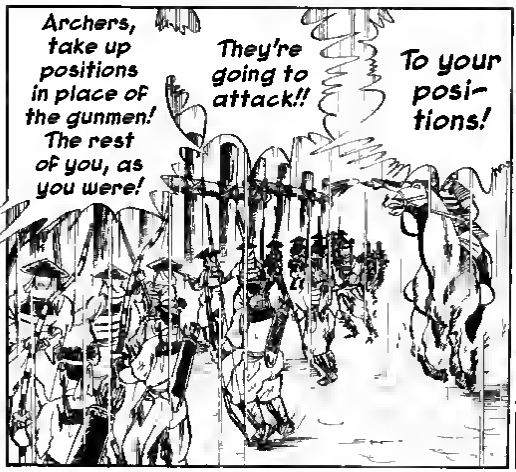


Morning of the second day

Don't be ridiculous! We're in position to intercept them! Moving our gunmen could be fatal!
Should we try and stage the attack ourselves?

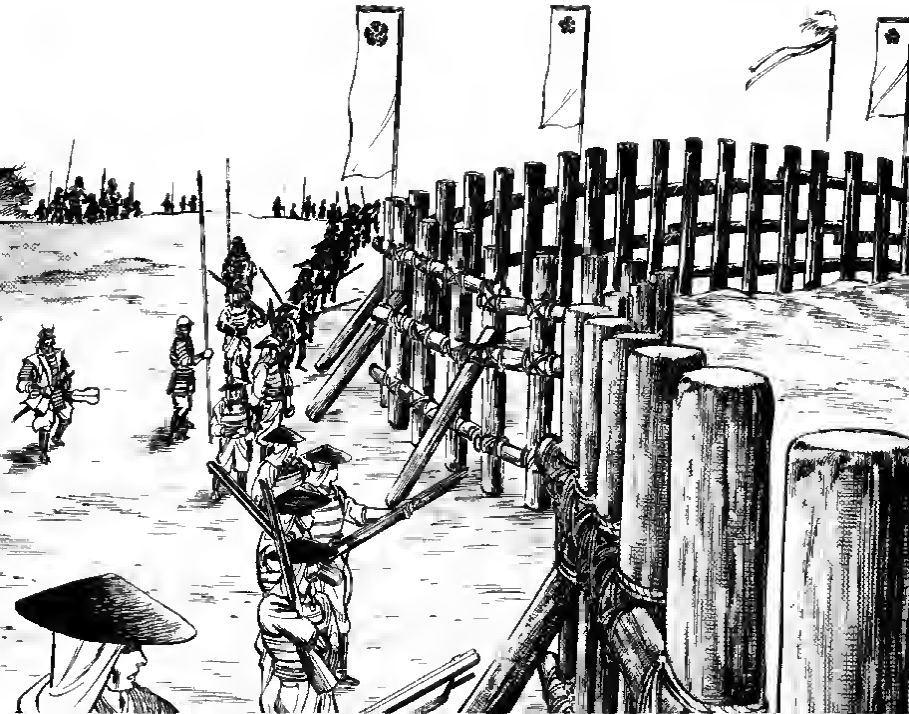
And they can sleep outdoors, even in rain and snow.
No. They can stave off starvation for six months with just a meager amount of rice powder.
If anyone will starve, it'll be them.
But we have more rations than they do, and we have secure supply lines.
Are they trying to starve us out?
Is it just me, or did it suddenly get cold?
The reinforcements are all here. They number about six thousand, and that's probably all they have.
Rein-force-ments?
So what are they waiting for?
They were waiting for...
Ah!
ボッ!


This!


Archers, take up positions in place of the gunmen! The rest of you, as you were!
They're going to attack!!
To your posi-tions!

This rain is gonna make the fuses on our match-locks too damp to use.

They're coming!
They're coming!
Now, then...
Why don't we get this started, Nobunaga?



HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

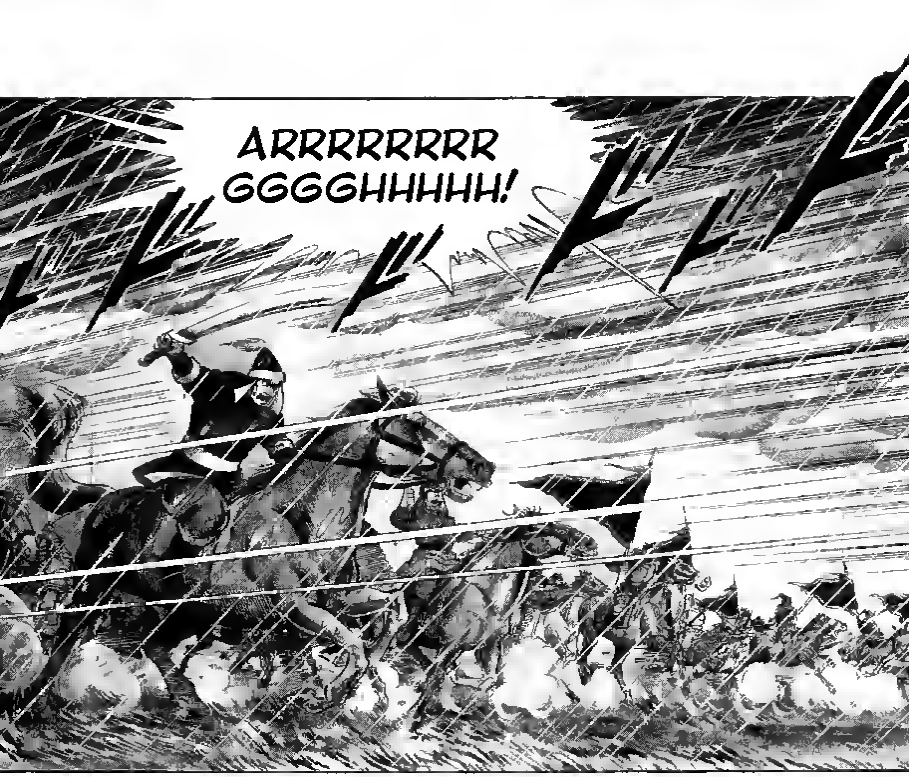
PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 41

Chapter 42: Clash

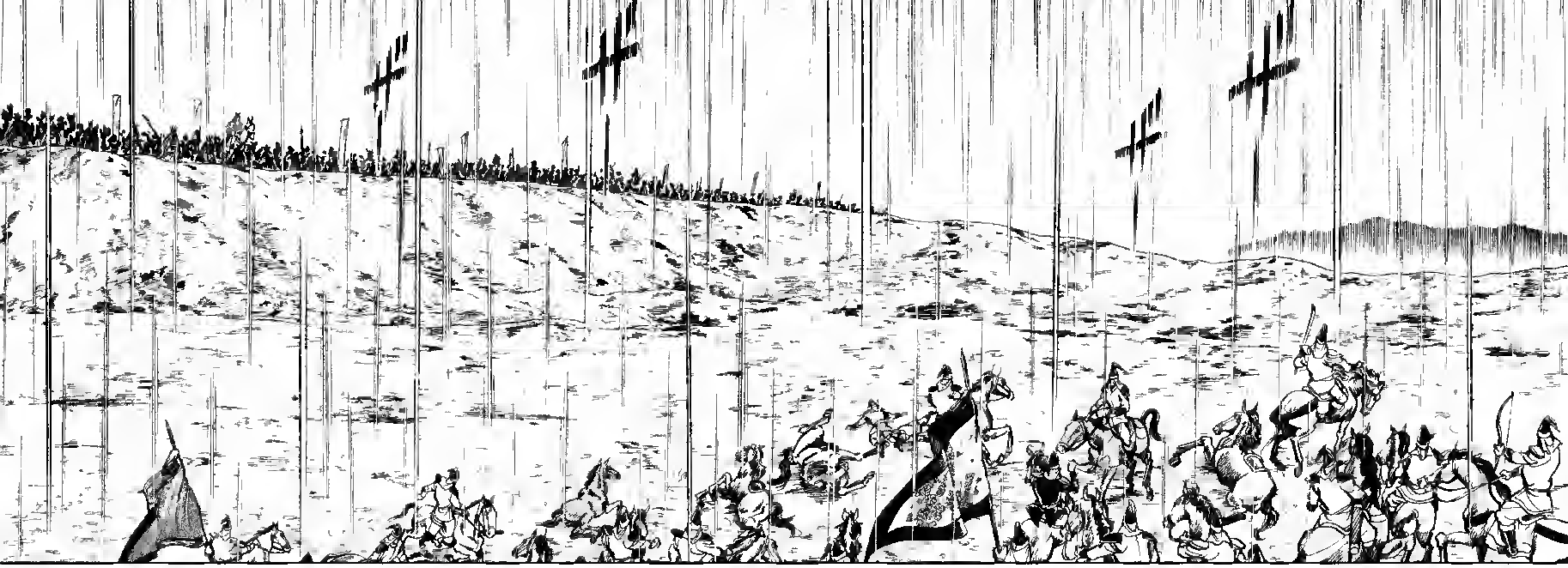

ARRRRRRRR
GGGGHHHHH!

Archers and pikemen to the Front!
They're here! Hold the Fence!!

Kill them all!!
Kill them! Kill them!

Bring it ooooooo-oooooooooon!!

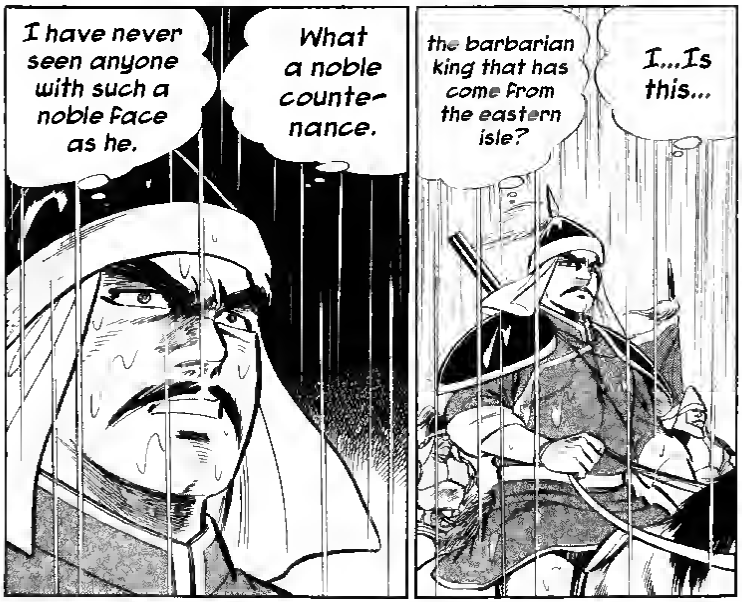
W-What the hell is happening?
They're firing their guns at us!



That's what humans do...
When it rains, we build shelter from the rain.

Oh, shit...
I had noticed that there was no sign of Kanbei and Kiyomasa. So you moved them to the flank...
Is that what you were doing, my Lord?
Goddammit! Even I, the great Hideyoshi, am just a court jester to him!
Whenever I am stationed under the Devil King, I can't help but stop thinking and rely on him for everything.
I don't want a single man...
Yes, my lord!
Open the gate.

to move
a muscle.

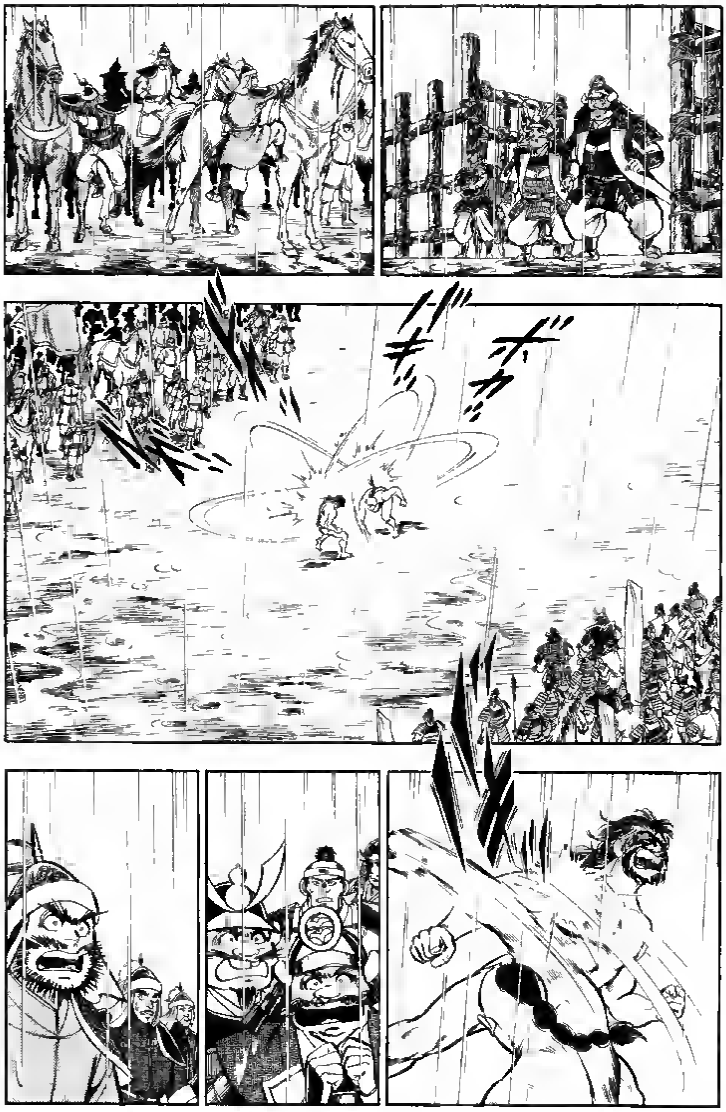

I have never seen anyone with such a noble face as he.
What a noble counte-nance.
the barbarian king that has come from the eastern isle?
I...Is this...

What the hell?
W-

Boy...
I'll play with you, if you'll come at me,
Your face seems to say you haven't had enough fun yet.
Hah haha...

Urrryaaaaaaaa aaaahhhhhhhh!!
Yaaaa aaaaa aaaaa aah!

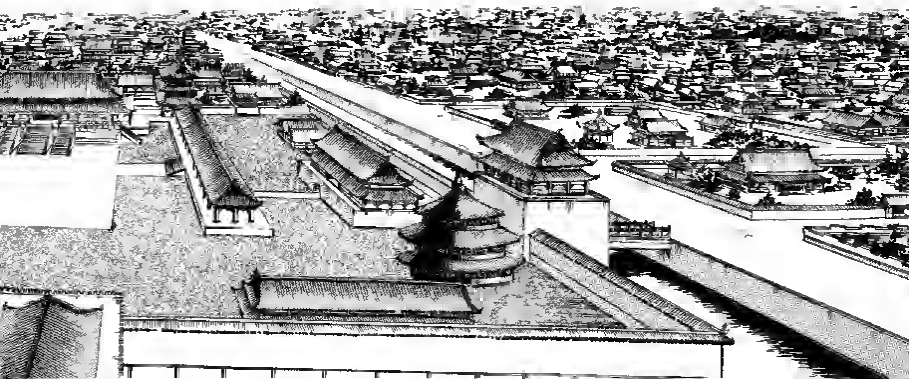
Uryaaa
aaaaa
aaaaa
aaah!



HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WHEEZE...
WHEEZE...
You're not bad for your age. Hehhe...
Well, old man...
I guess I'll let you off at that for to...
They claimed that you're the spitting image of me in my youth.
And sure, we may look the same...
day...

Waaa ahhha haha!
But on the inside, we're as far apart as a dragon is from a dragonfly!
Hahhaha! Looks like Nurhaci's really comfortable sleeping on my lap...
Father...
F...

Oh...
That's real damn magnificent!
I...It's huge!
Look! It's a rain-bow!
I've never seen a rainbow this big in my life!



HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

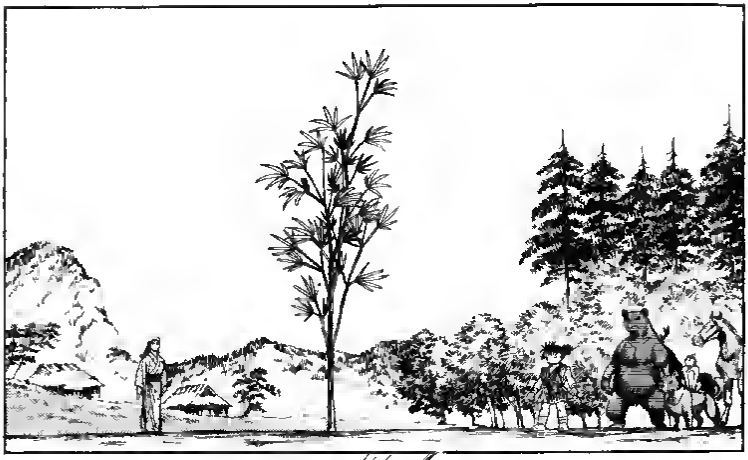
PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

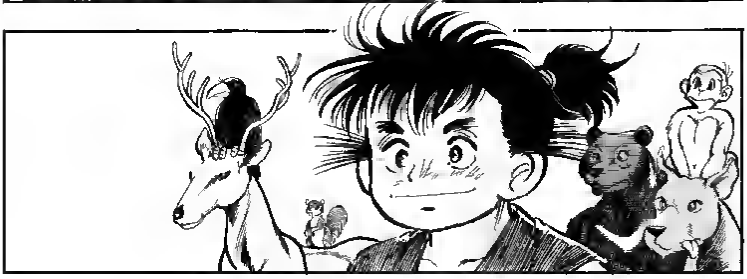
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

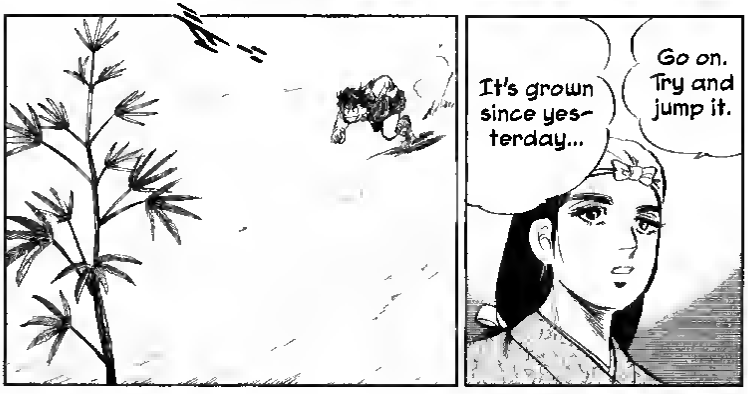
QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 42

Chapter 43: The Cunning Badger






It's grown since yesterday...
Go on. Try and jump it.

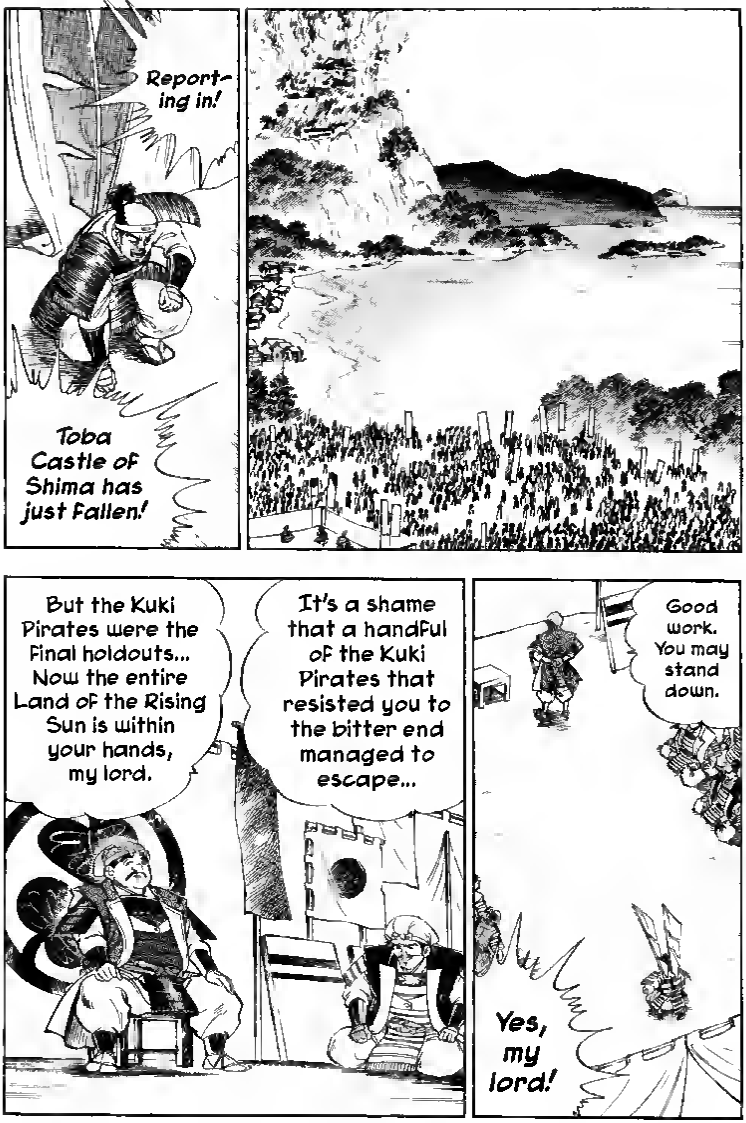
Yeee-aaaa aaaa aaaa ah!
BOW-WOW...
MOO OOO!
EE-EEE EE!
You should seek to improve again tomorrow.
The hemp plant grows quickly.

す
He's mastered the Weightlessness Technique at the age of six.
And if this... is from his blood...
Then the Lord's blood must be dreadful...
NEEEIGH!
MOOOO OOOO!
CAW! CAW!
OO-OO-EE-EEE!
GRRRRRRR!

GRRRRR! GRRRR!
WHINNY!
MOO! MOO!
EEE-EEE!
Mubo-maru.
You've been seeming very unhappy these days.
Are you feeling ill...?
No.
I wanna meet Father!!

My Father!
Father!
Huh!?
You're lying, Mother!!
You're lying!!
You were born into this world by the will of the gods. You have no Father.
How many times must I remind you?
And I know humans are the same!
I know that! I've seen the animals love each other and I've seen them be born!
Everything is born when a mommy and a daddy love each other!
So why don't I!?
Bear and Monkey and Horse all have mothers and Fathers!

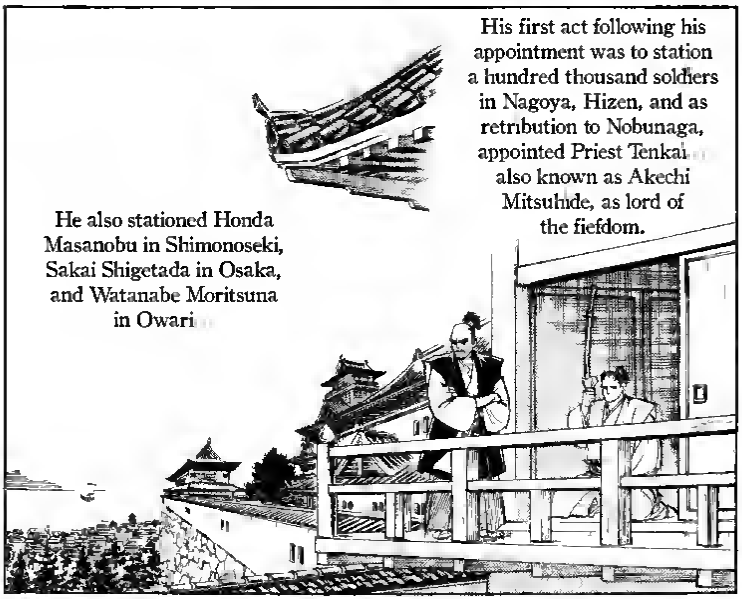
CAWWWW!
MOOOOO!
SQUAWK! SQUAWK!
EEE-EEE!
MY DADDY LEFT AFTER HE MADE ME!
GRR RR! GRR RR!
YEAH! YEAH!
Your father is in a land across the sea, far far away from the land of the Rising Sun.
Fine, Mubo-maru.
I was planning to tell you this when you were older, but I wasn't meaning to lie to you.
What's the sea ...?
Where's the sea ...?
Where is it!?


Report-ing in!
Toba Castle of Shima has just fallen!
But the Kuki Pirates were the final holdouts... Now the entire Land of the Rising Sun is within your hands, my lord.
It's a shame that a handful of the Kuki Pirates that resisted you to the bitter end managed to escape...
Good work. You may stand down.
Yes, my lord!

……
Ga ha ha …
Wah ha ha!
Yes, and he who laughs last, laughs best!
Good things come to those who wait!
You have no right to be speaking to me!!
You Fools!!
Silence! Silence! Silence!

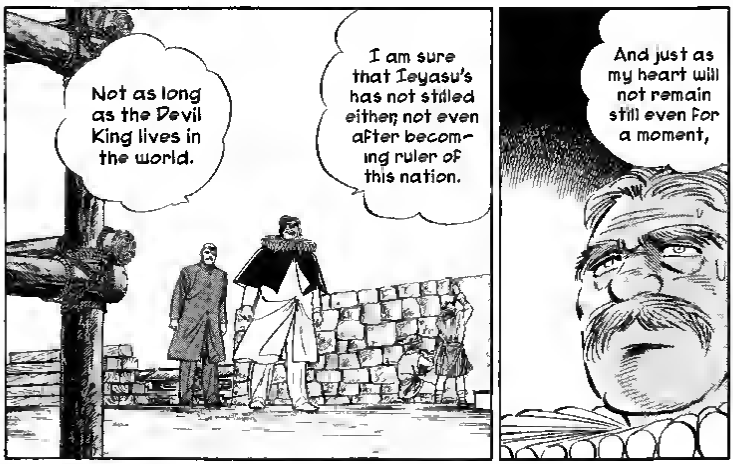
I can't imagine how hard it was to be taken as the Oda's hostage at the age of six.
Take-chiyo...
Fushimi Castle, Kyoto
And when Nobunaga had you kill your innocent wife and son...
That's the Lord's voice
And then when you were taken as the Imagawa's hostage
What the hell?
Ieyasu...
おお
AHAHAHUGH!!
You have truly done well...
It's coming from the privy!
You've done well, Takechiyo!

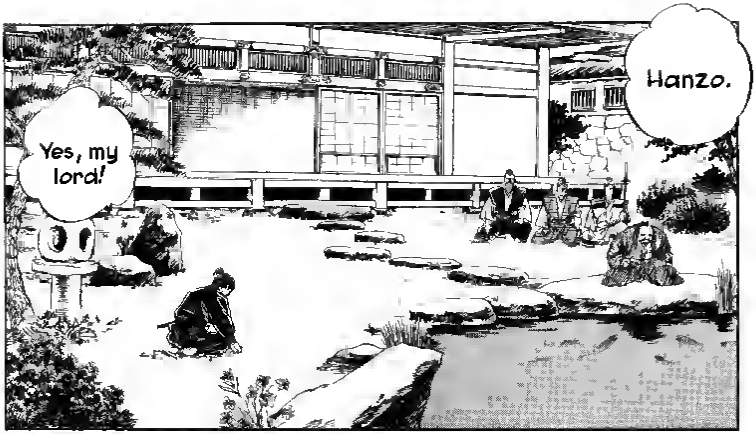
In Tensho year 16 (1588), Tokugawa Ieyasu united the nation and was appointed as the Great Shogun.


His first act following his appointment was to station a hundred thousand soldiers in Nagoya, Hizen, and as retribution to Nobunaga, appointed Priest Tenkai also known as Akechi Mitsuhide, as lord of the fiefdom.
He also stationed Honda Masanobu in Shimonoseki, Sakai Shigetada in Osaka, and Watanabe Moritsuna in Owari

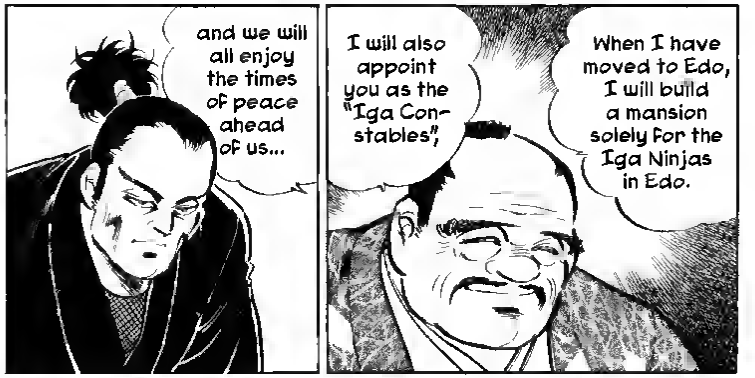
He defended Edo with his massive army of five hundred thousand under his direct command.
Meanwhile, he himself withdrew to the backward province of Musashi, and stationed his Shogunate in Edo.
I thought Hideyoshi's Osaka Castle was big,
but it doesn't even hold a candle to Edo Castle!
Edo...
This proves ...
that my Lord fears those two men that left for the continent from the bottom of his heart...

This is going to open up a door for us missionaries, won't it?
Father Cabral!
Ieyasu will not lay a hand on us so long as we are still valuable to him.
Our homeland of Europe and Ieyasu have a common enemy...
For now, at least..

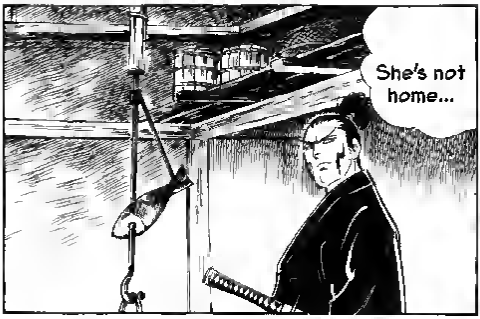

Not as long as the Devil King lives in the world.
I am sure that Ieyasu's has not stilled either; not even after becoming ruler of this nation.
And just as my heart will not remain still even for a moment,

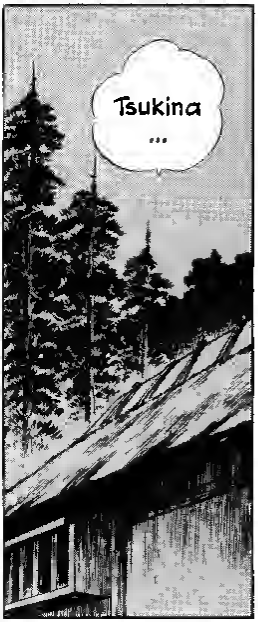

Hanzo.
Yes, my lord!

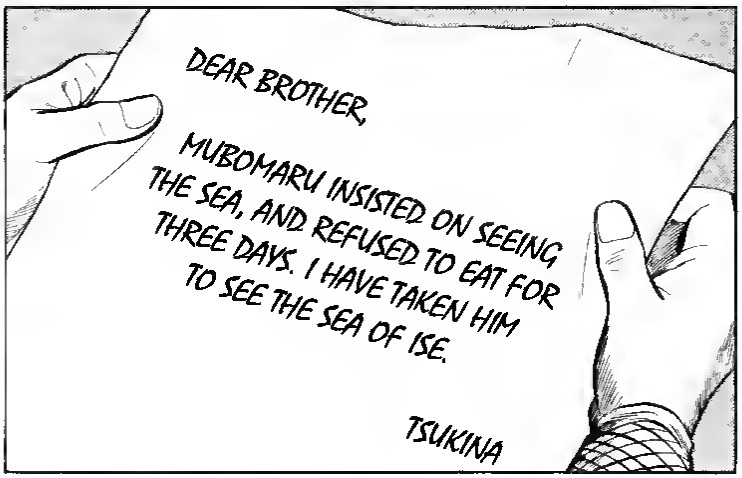
I will never forget your service in protecting me as we crossed Iga, when Nobunaga was slain in Honno Temple.
You have done great tasks for me in times of war.


and we will all enjoy the times of peace ahead of us...
I will also appoint you as the "Iga Constables",
When I have moved to Edo, I will build a mansion solely for the Iga Ninjas in Edo.

What is it?
If I may have a word...
I believe that I am no longer necessary, especially now that the strife has ended.
so I cannot live away from the mountains I call home.
Just as a tiger cannot change its stripes,
How modest of you...
With all due respect.
So, you do not desire success?


She's not home...


Tsukina ...


DEAR BROTHER,
MUBOMARU INSISTED ON SEEING THE SEA, AND REFUSED TO EAT FOR THREE DAYS. I HAVE TAKEN HIM TO SEE THE SEA OF ISE.
TSUKINA

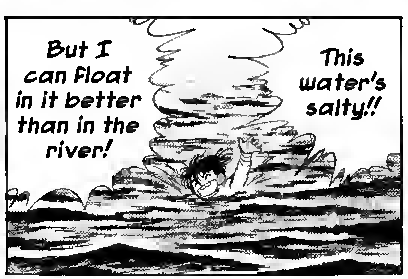
She does not understand what this could mean!
I gave her specific instructions not to take him to any other land
That Fool!

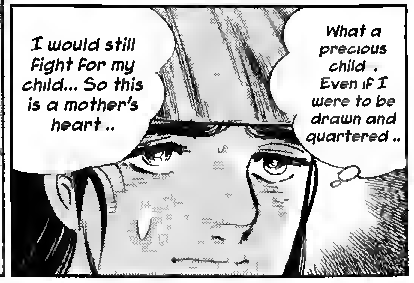
!!
Your leaping footwork seems to suggest you are a Yagyu!!

The Iga have a saying: "Dogs will not eat dogs".
This means that an Iga would never assassinate a fellow Iga.
So he sent the Yagyu, instead.
So he suspected me after all.
How humble of you,
Hanzo ...

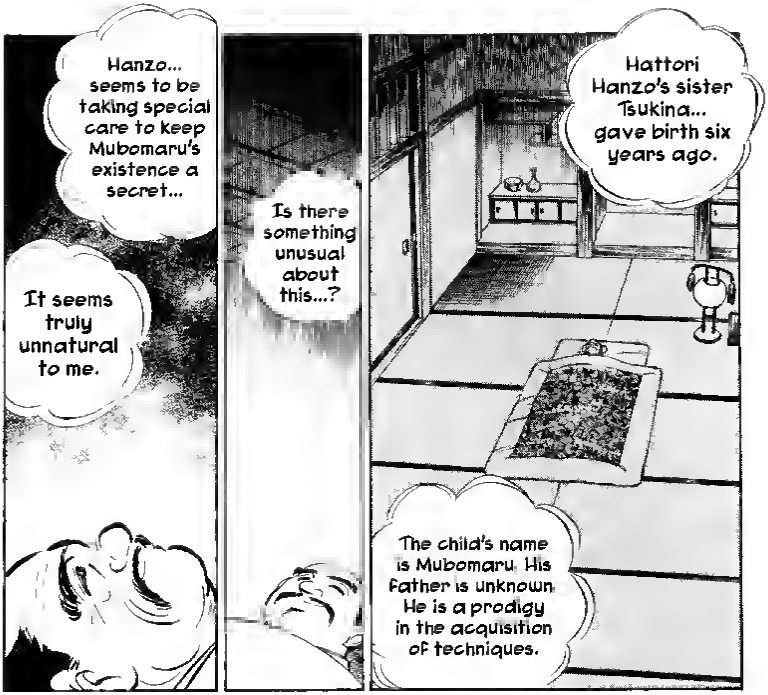
Yeah!
Yeah!
Wow!
It's huge!!

I should never have become a mother.. But now, that is everything to me..


But I can float in it better than in the river!
This water's salty!!

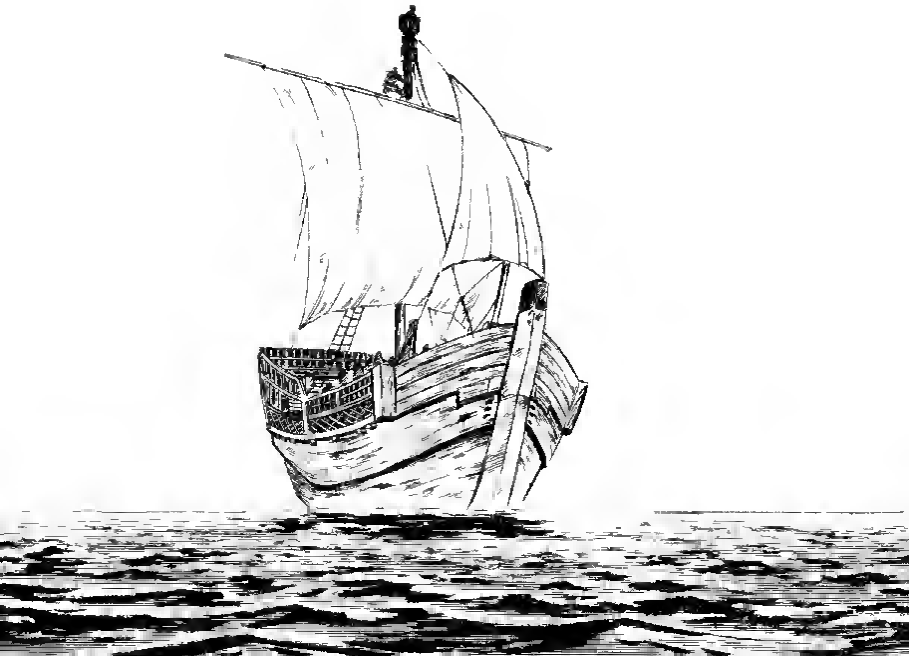

I would still fight for my child... So this is a mother's heart ..
What a precious child . Even if I were to be drawn and quartered ..

Is my father on the other side of this sea!?
Ma!!


Hanzo... seems to be taking special care to keep Mubomaru's existence a secret...
It seems truly unnatural to me.
Is there something unusual about this...?
Hattori Hanzo's sister Tsukina... gave birth six years ago.
The child's name is Mubomaru. His father is unknown. He is a prodigy in the acquisition of techniques.
The kind that I trust the least.
He is a modest man...
Hehe...
Kill Hanzo, his sister, her child, and the rest of the Iga.
Yes, my lord.

Is something the matter?
ICAICHI INN
No, it's nothing.
!!
Mubo-maru! Where are you!?
It can't be!!
N... No...
His water-walking shoes are missing!

LORD NOBUNAGA IS CALLING MUBOMARU!
I'M COMING, FATHER!!



HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

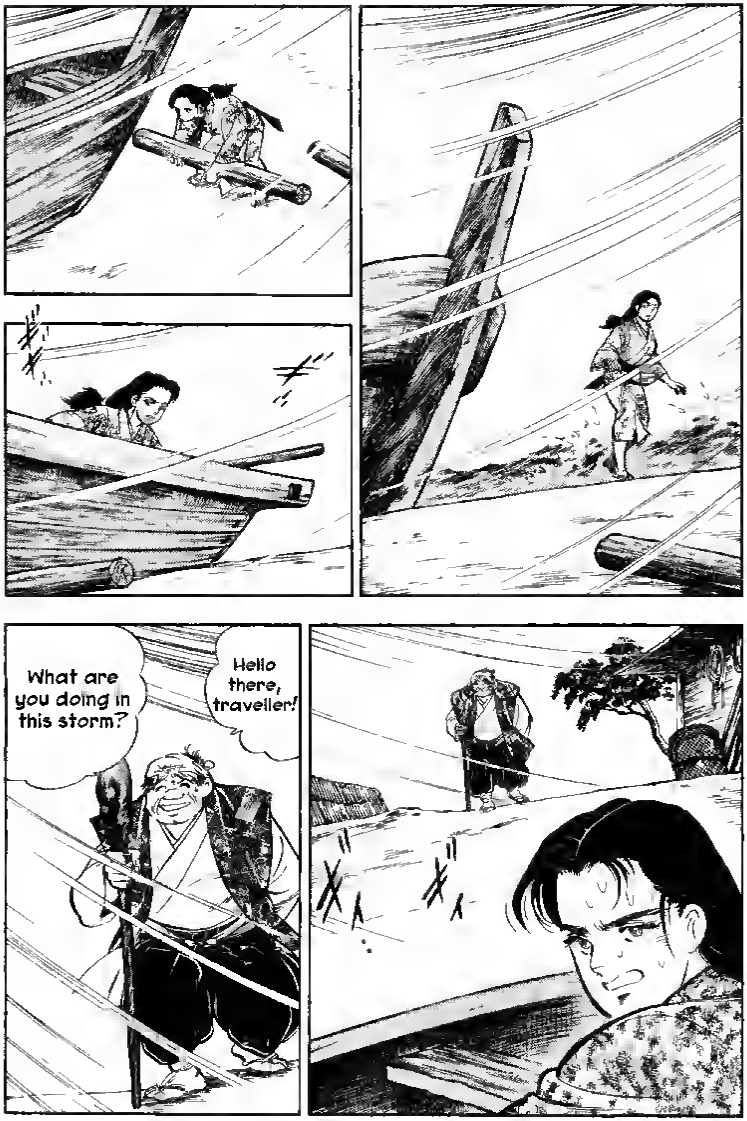
PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

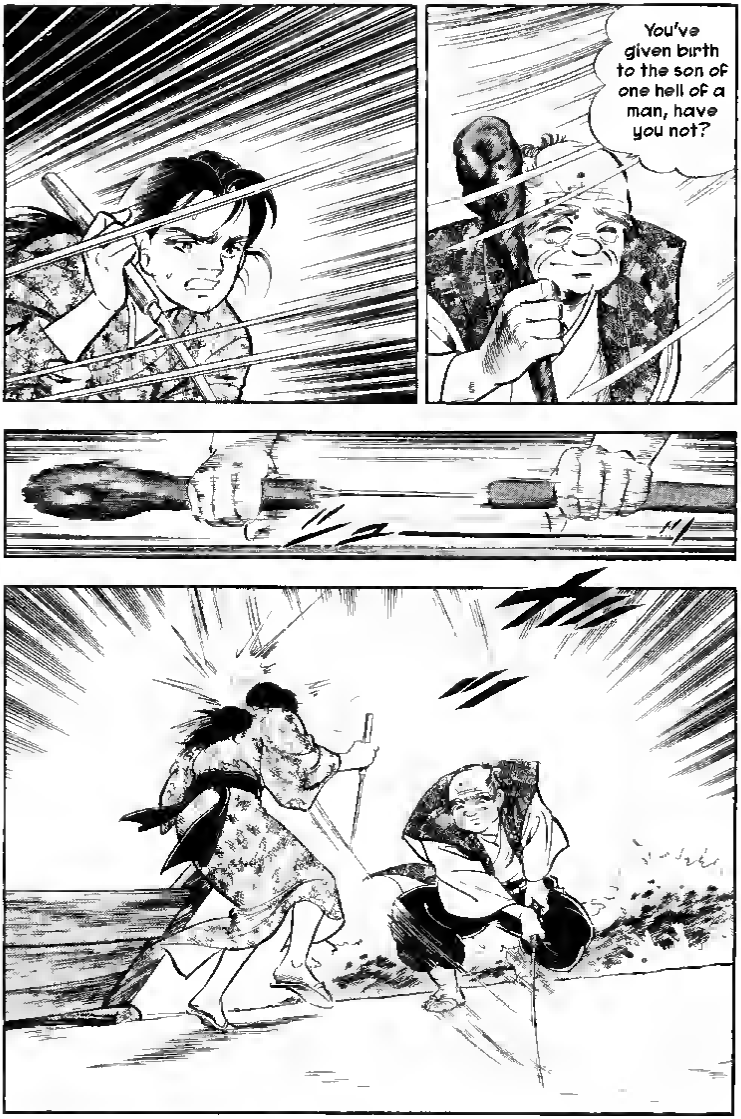
QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 43

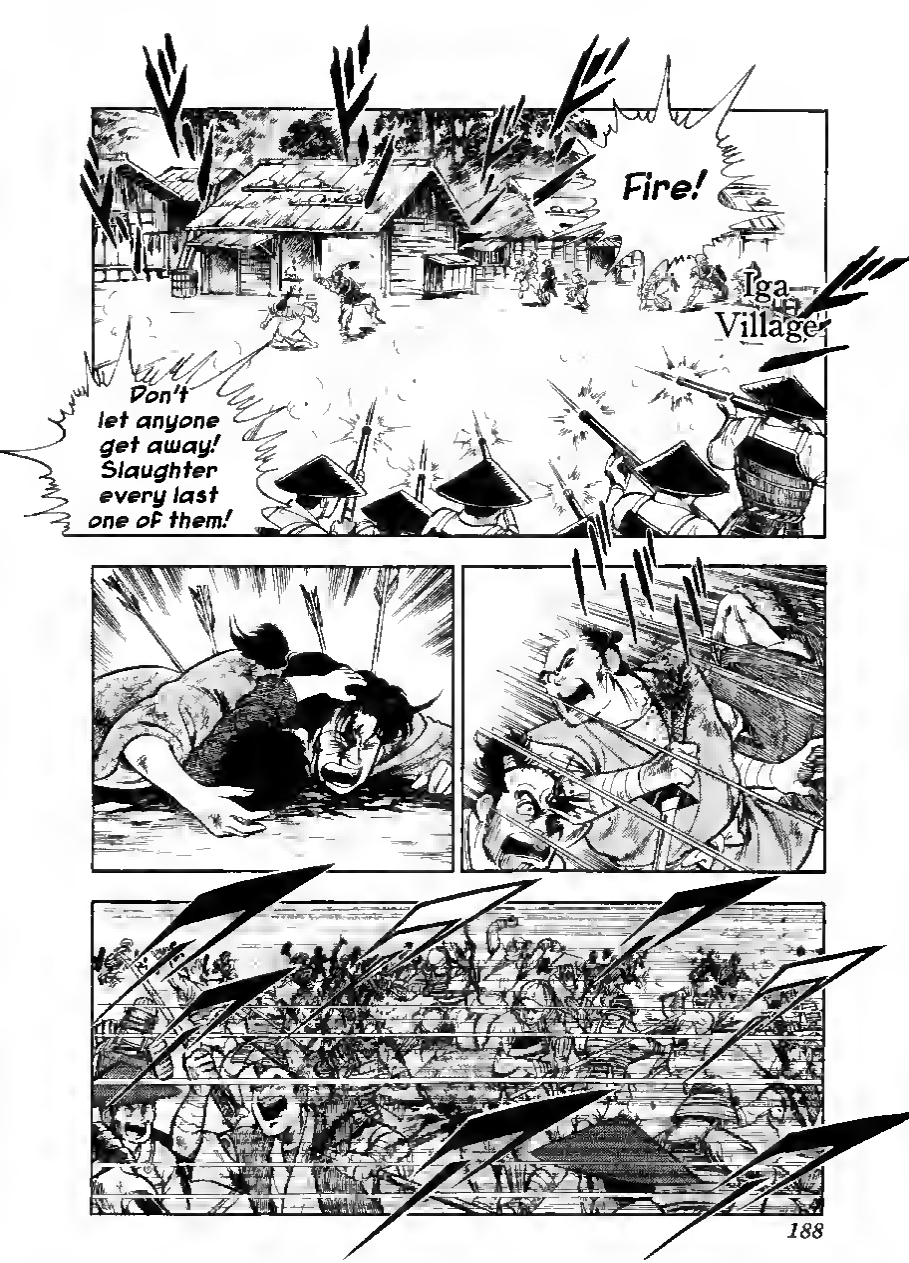
Chapter 44: Lord of the Sword-Guard

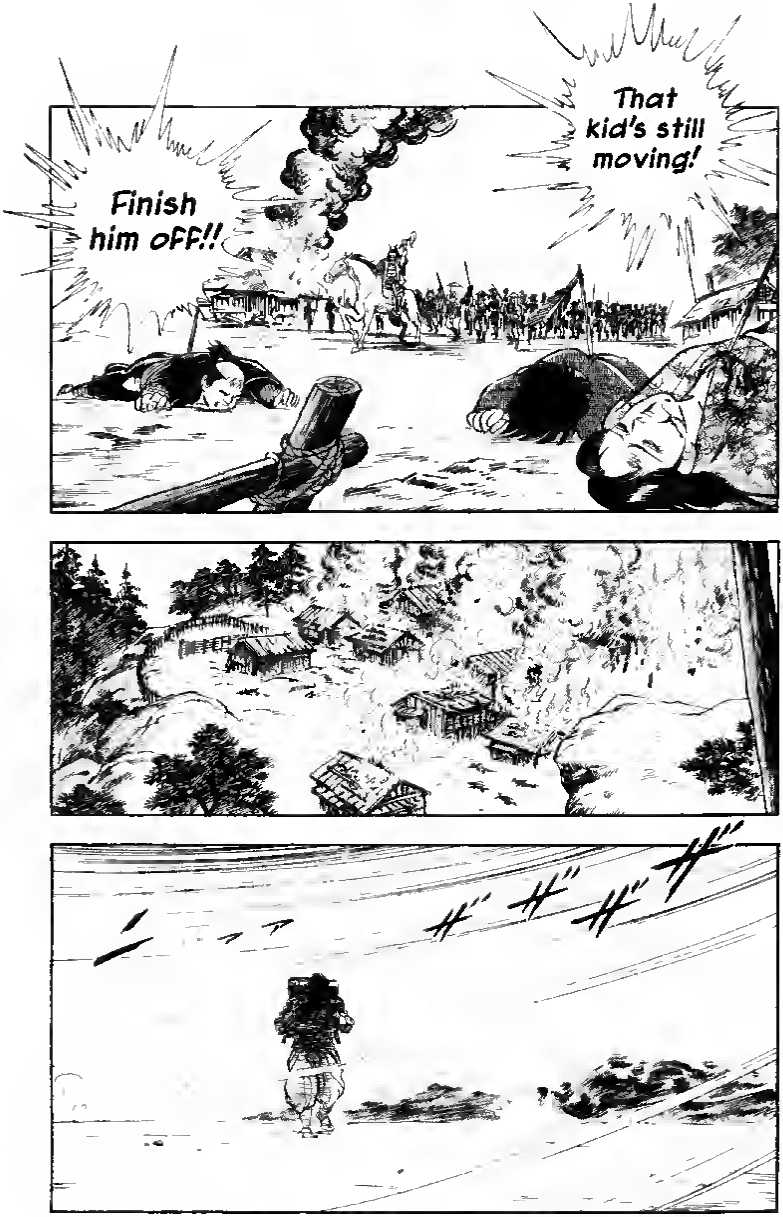

Hello there, traveller!
What are you doing in this storm?

.....
Are you?
You're not thinking of putting a boat out on these choppy seas...
there is a reason why you must go in spite of the risk...?
Or perhaps
It'd be a waste of a perfectly fine young body. Gehhehe...
You really shouldn't go throwing away your life.
And I must say...
Mubomaru!
And your child's name is...
Perhaps you're going to search for your child...


You've given birth to the son of one hell of a man, have you not?

ビシ
You country boors cannot rule the nation.
But once the nation has become tranquil, it is the Yagyu's time to shine.
The Iga are most suited to serve as rats that scamper through a chaotic world...


Fire!
Iga Village
Don't let anyone get away! Slaughter every last one of them!

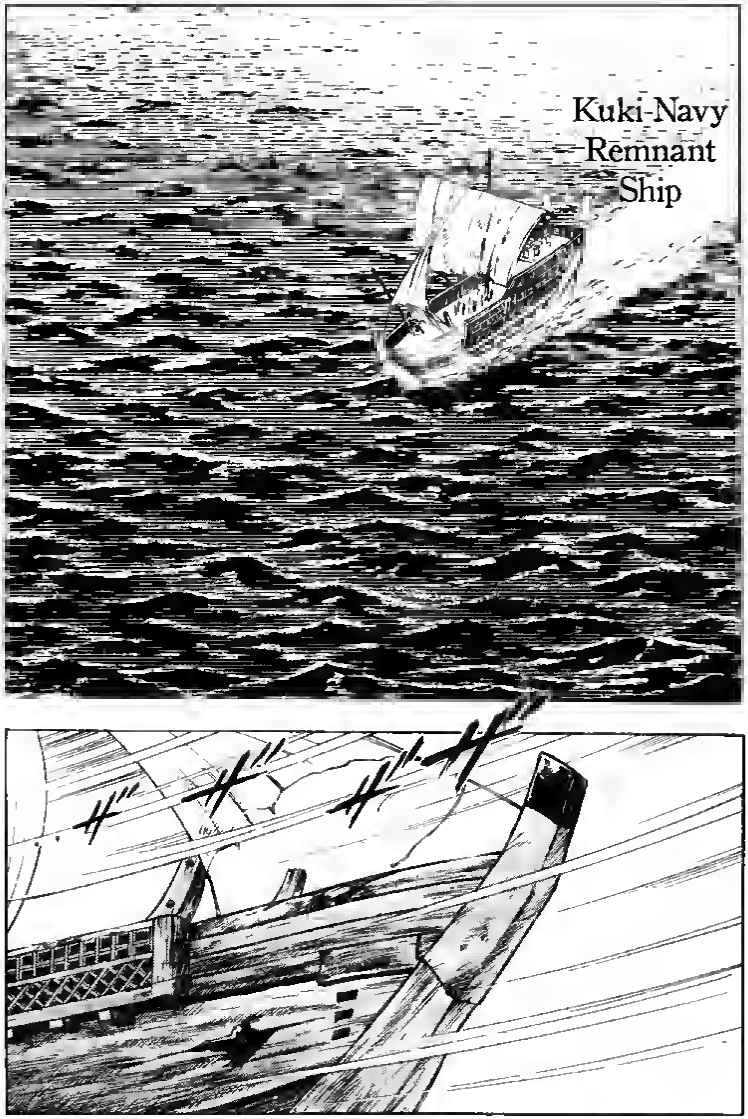

That kid's still moving!
Finish him off!!

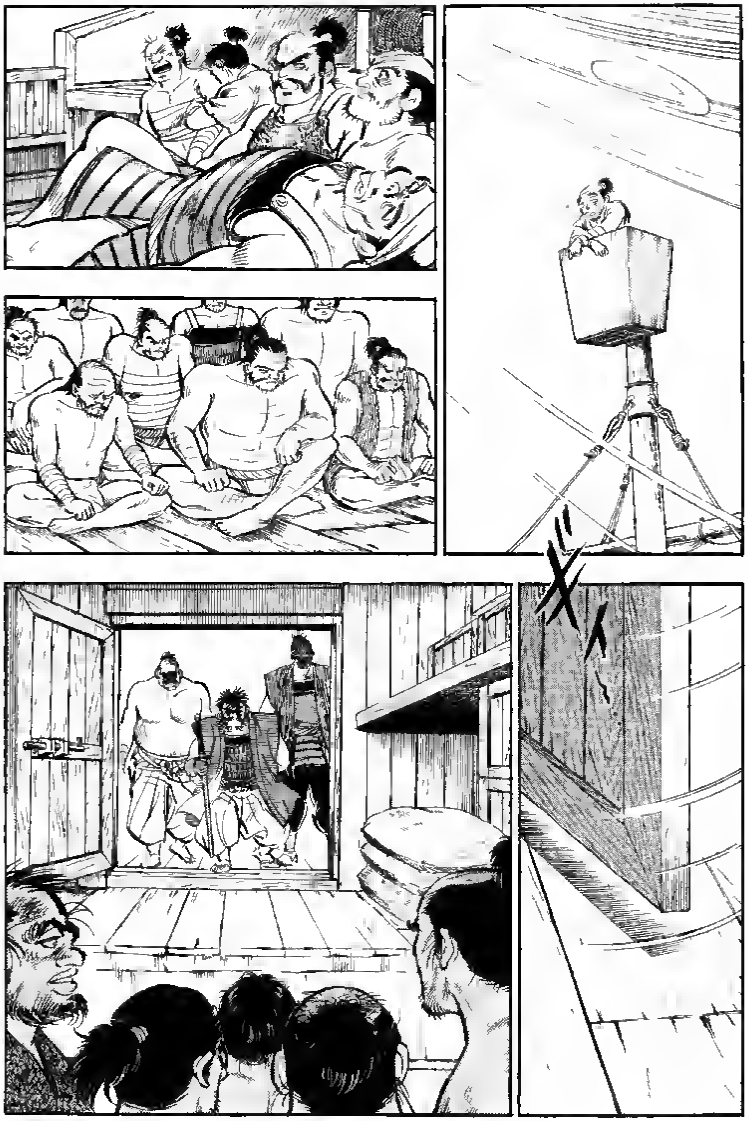
Tell me what happened, Hanzo.
What happened...
between you and Ieyasu...?
had the Iga Village massacred!
Ieyasu...
Goemon!

You became Ieyasu's spy for your petty social standing!
I warned you, didn't I...? A ninja lost in desire will only destroy himself!
It's all your fault.
What !?

Your sister... has been abducted by Yagyu Sekishusai.
Did you know that the Yagyu have been sent out?
.....

In spite of our differences, I, Ishikawa Goemon, am still your childhood friend.
Tell me everything, Hanzo.


Kuki-Navy
Remnant
Ship

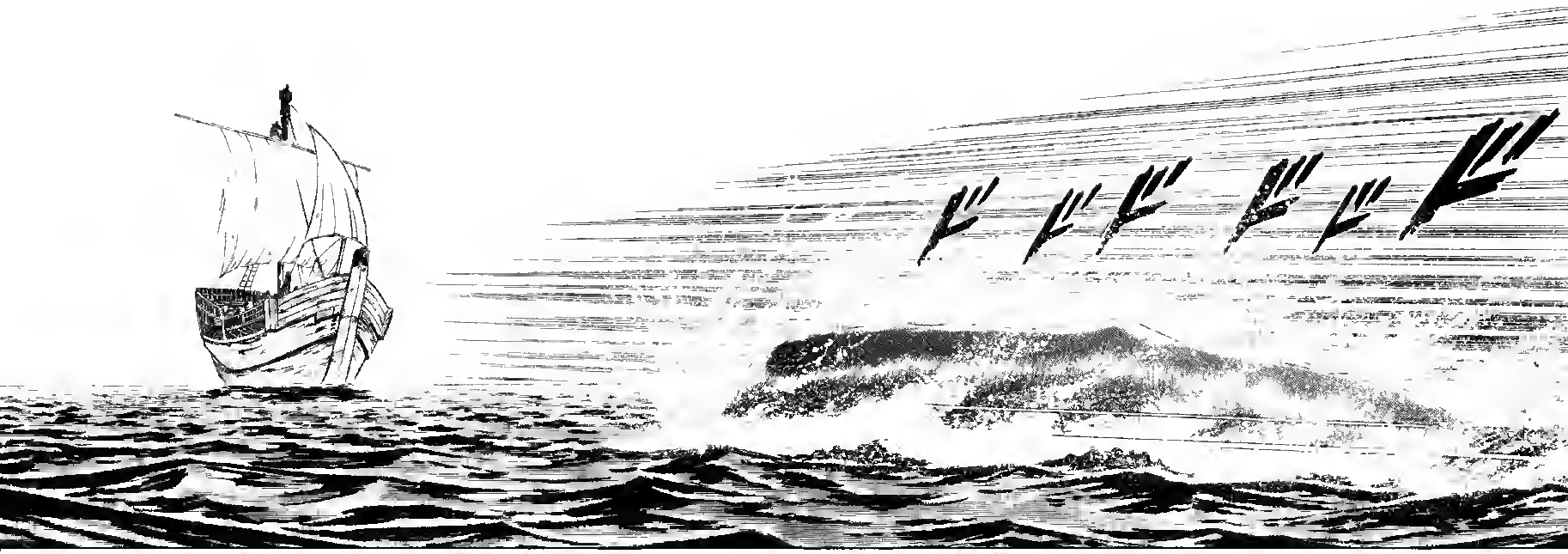


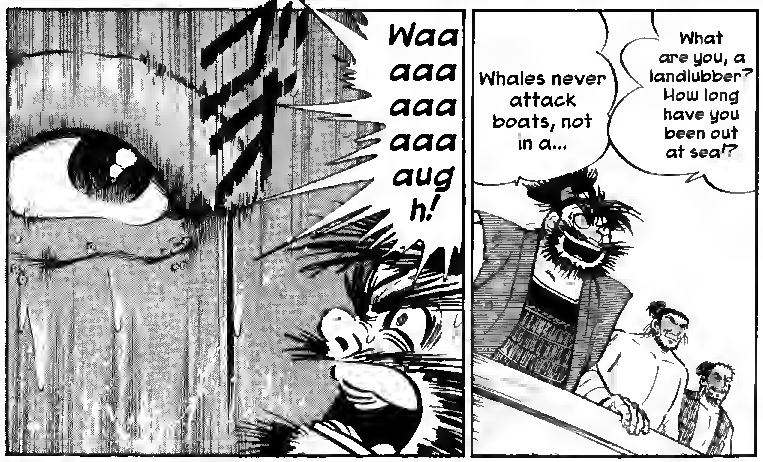
I know what we're to do now...
I've made up my mind... scallywags...
We've got no mind to live in a country ruled by that fucking badger Ieyasu!
We, the Kii Pirates, were spared and taken in by Lord Kuki!
Am I right!?
So we're gonna fall on our swords...
I fuckin' hate that badger!
That's right!

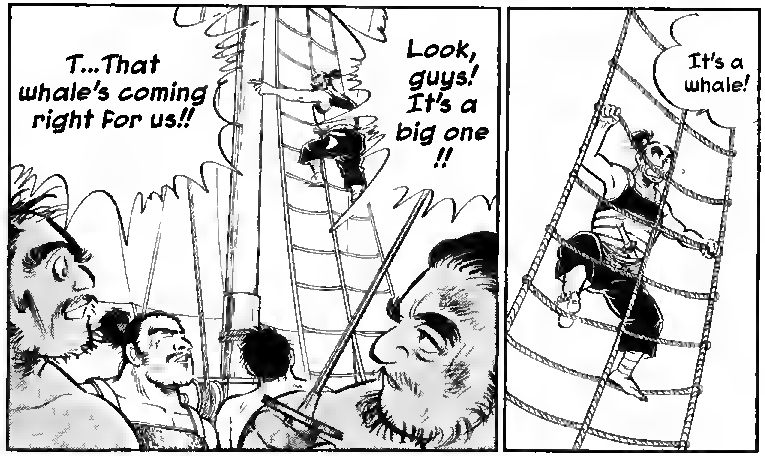
We're pirates!
Like Hell we are!
We ain't gonna do that embarrassing samurai shit!
What!?
He treated us swashbucklers like we were real samurai!
But we're in debt to Lord Kuki!
I know already! I'm just as embarrassed as you are!
so we're gonna die like samurai!
We can't embarrass Lord Kuki now,

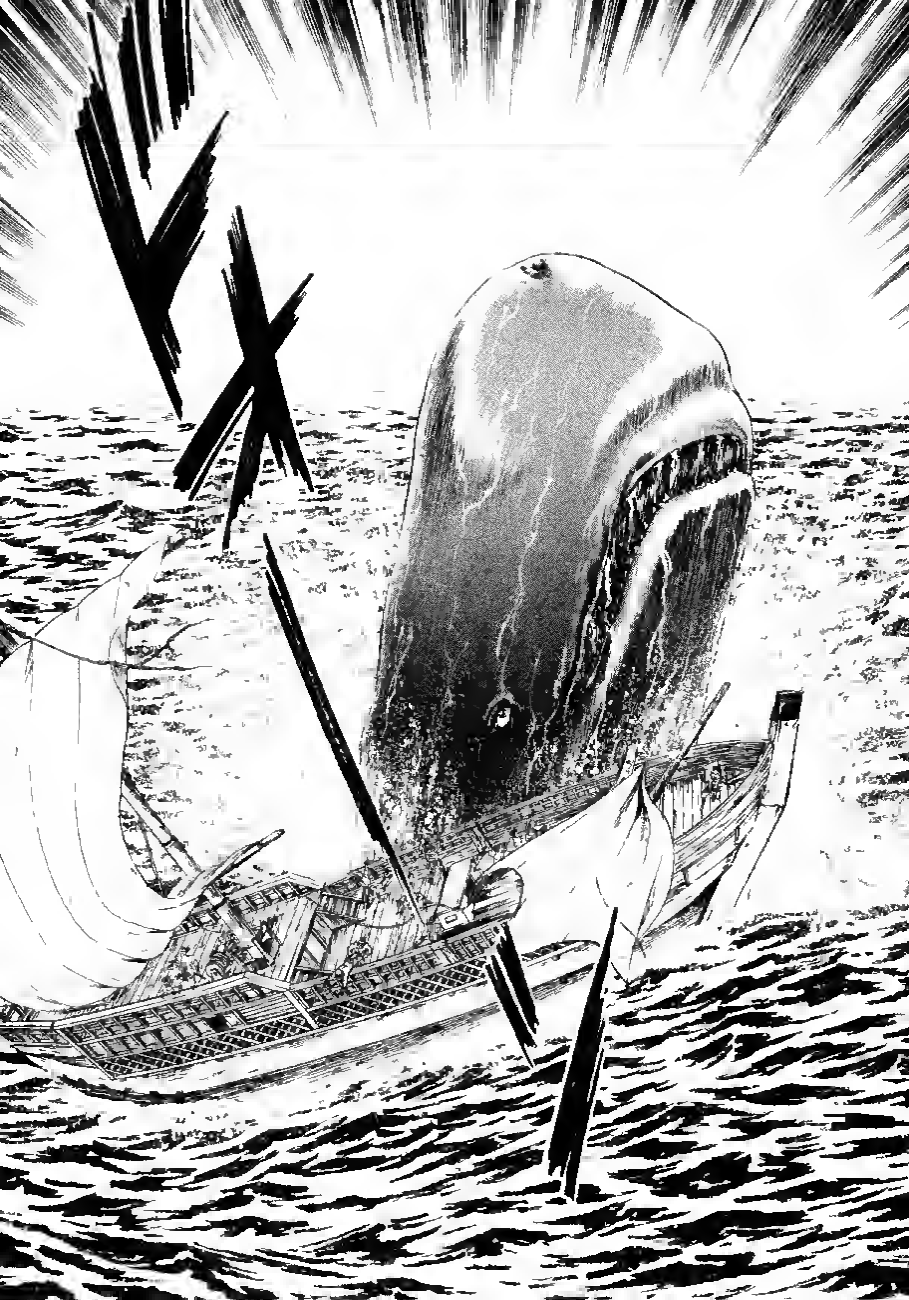
Guess we'll give it a go.
Yeah!
Hehhe...
might be kinda fun...
Dying like a samurai...
There's no real method to gutting yourself. Just do it however you like.
Don't worry about that
Yeah, but...
Just stick your sword right in there!
I don't really know how they do it, though.
Where am I suppo-sed to start?

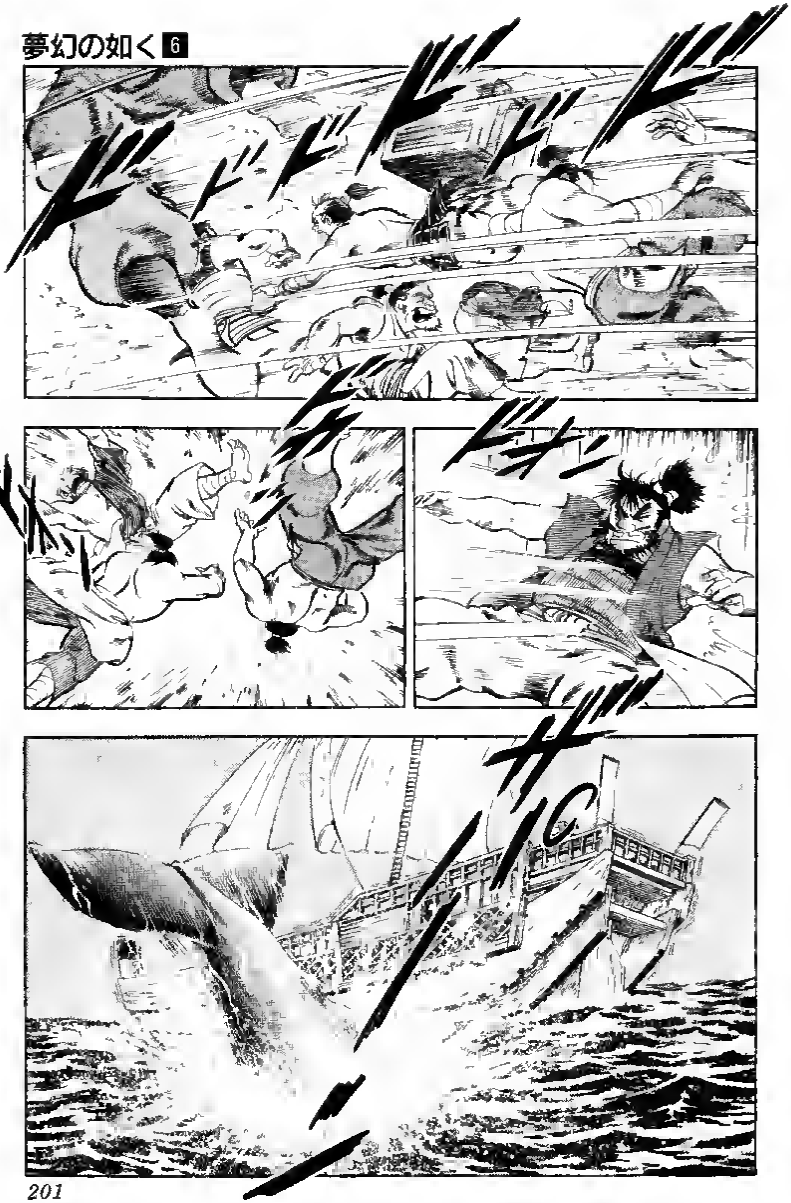
Ahhhh !!
You won't need a lookout anymore...
Don't just leave me behind!
Wait!




Waa aaa aaa aaa aug h!
Whales never attack boats, not in a...
What are you, a landlubber? How long have you been out at sea!?


T...That whale's coming right for us!!
Look, guys! It's a big one !!
It's a whale!




ドドドドドド
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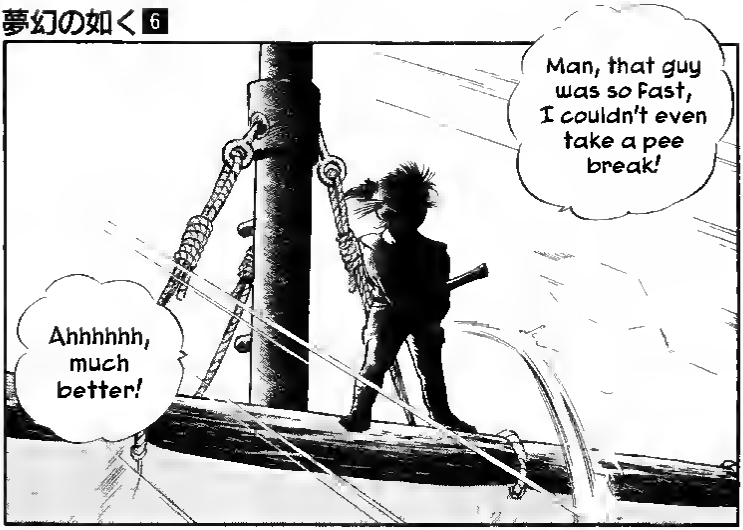
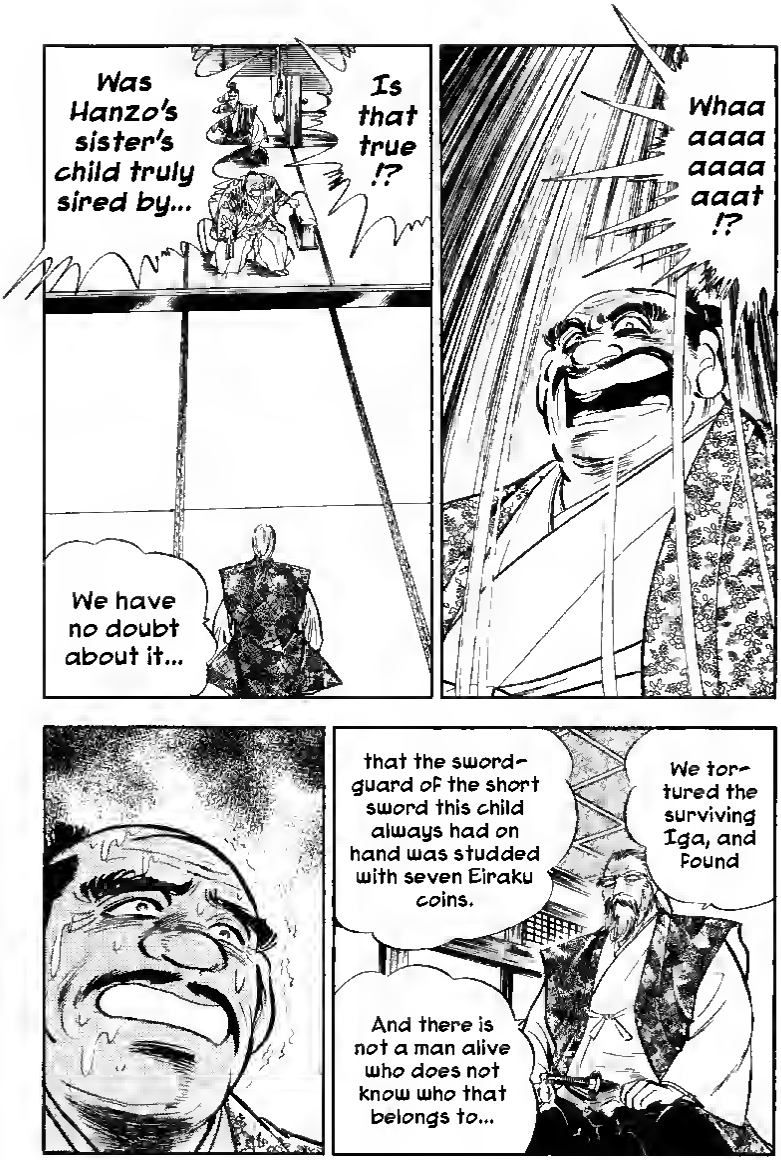
What the hell?
W...
W...


Man, that guy was so fast, I couldn't even take a pee break!
Ahhhhhh, much better!

ゴクゴク
ゴーク
!
Gimme some!
You've got water here, right?

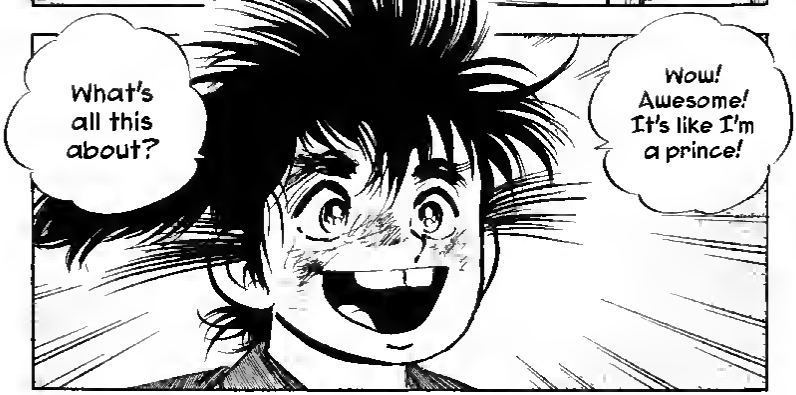
An-
other
!!
It's
way too
good!
Ahhhh,
that's
good!
Then where
do you think
he came
from...?
Don't be
ridiculous!
That's just
not possible!
Wait, don't
tell me you
were riding
that whale,
were you?
You're
an even
worse liar
than us
pirates...
Wa
ah
ha
ha!
You
mean you
talked to
a whale?
Thank
you!
I've been
with him
for the
past three
days
I told him
I need water,
so he took
me here.

My mother said it's a precious gift from my father.
Where did you get it?
Yeah, sure.
Would it be alright if I took a look at your sword?
We cannot die!
We simply must not die, everyone!
What is it?
Tell us, Old Sudo...
Seven on the front, six on the back...
A silver pattern studded with Eiraku coins..
This unique sword-guard truly is...


Was Hanzo's sister's child truly sired by...
Is that true !?
We have no doubt about it...
Whaa aaaa aaaa aaat !?
that the sword-guard of the short sword this child always had on hand was studded with seven Eiraku coins.
We tortured the surviving Iga, and found
And there is not a man alive who does not know who that belongs to...

Mubo-maru's father
is undoubtedly Oda Nobunaga.

My lord!


What's all this about?
Wow! Awesome! It's like I'm a prince!

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

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CHAPTER 44